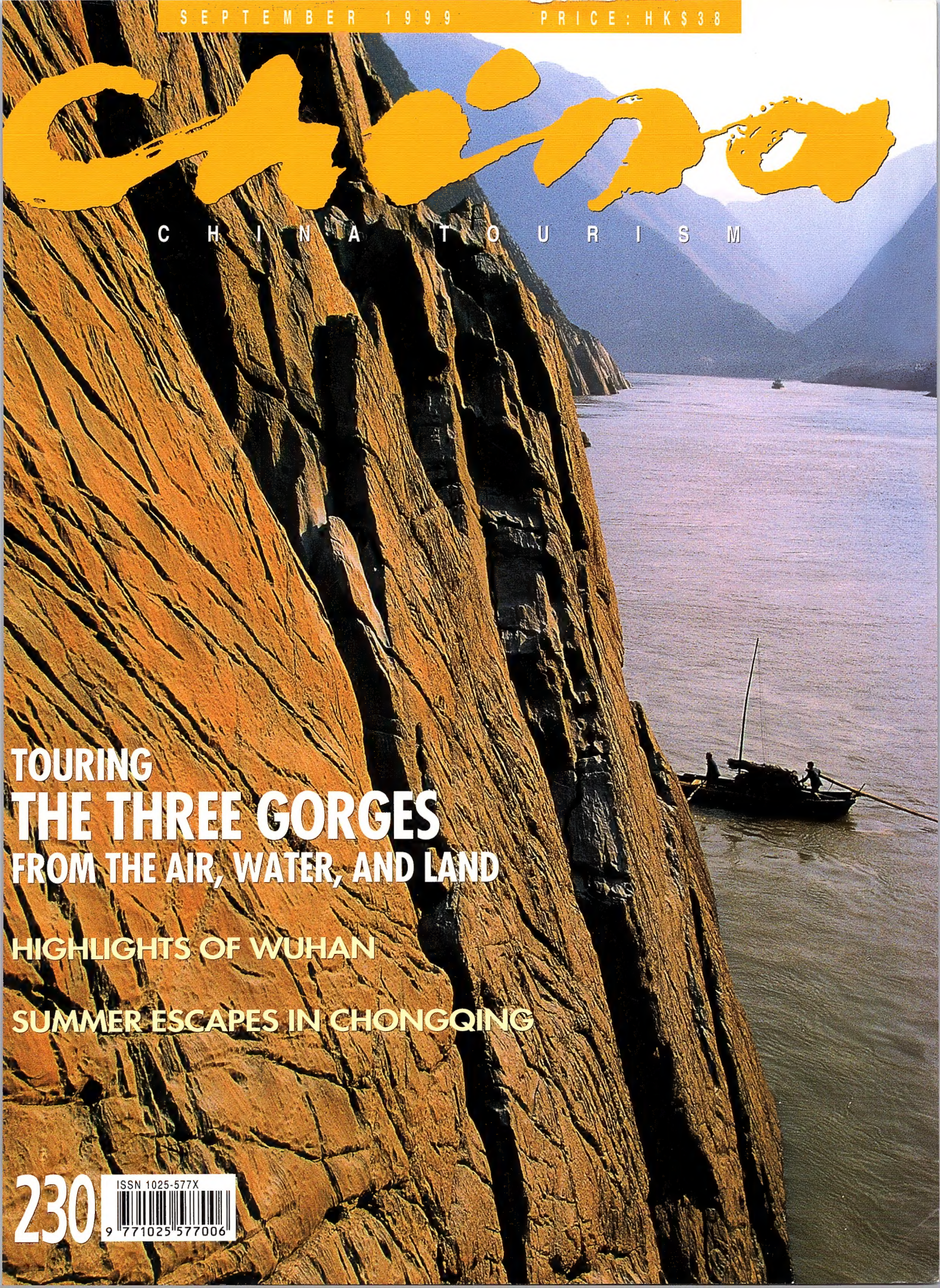
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China

CHINA TOURISM



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HIGHLIGHTS OF WUHAN

SUMMER ESCAPES IN CHONGQING

230 ISSN 1025-577X









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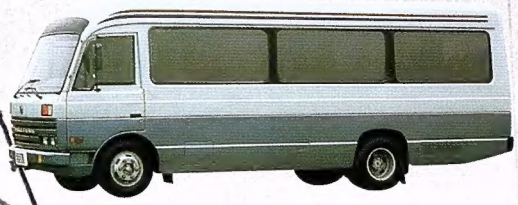
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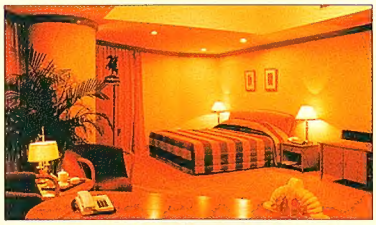
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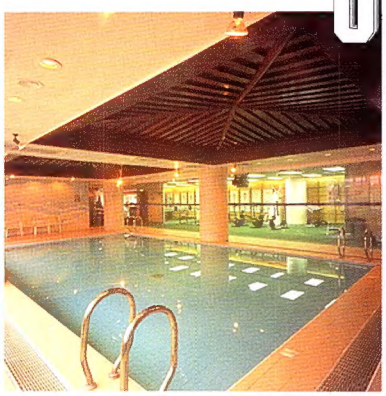
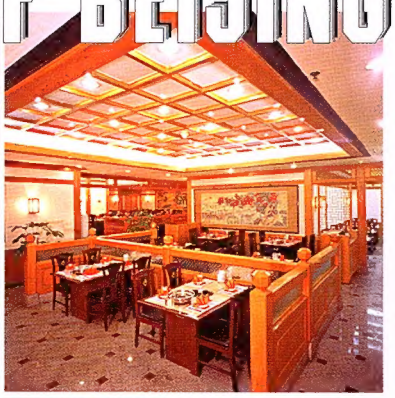
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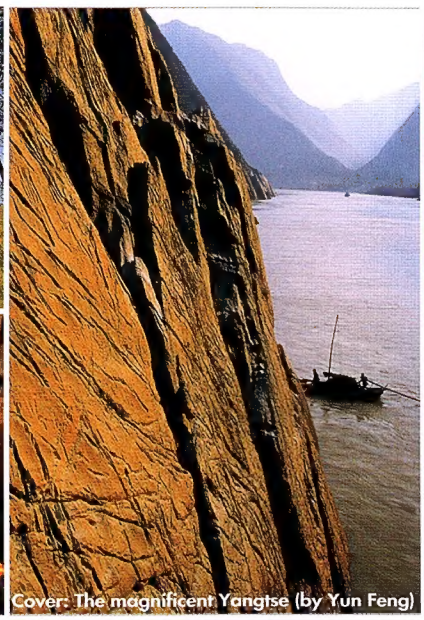
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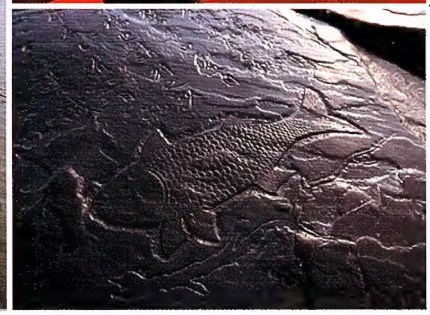
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Photos by Zheng Yunfeng Articles by Zhang Ronghui
As the huge water project is under way at the Yangtse River's Three Gorges, an increasing number of visitors are attracted to the area. They travel along the river by air, ship or even on foot, trying to get a glimpse of the original features of the Three Gorges, in fear that many of the scenic sights will be submerged when the dam is built. In fact, only a few of the sights will be lost; some sights will be moved; and as the basic landscapes will not change, the charm of the Three Gorges will remain.

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Wuhan: A City of Three Towns and Two Rivers
Photos & article by You Xiang, Li Zhixiong
Wuhan, a metropolis on the middle reaches of the Yangtse River, is famous for its historical Huanghe Tower and Yangtse River Bridge, the pride of modern Chinese architectural engineering. But there is much more to discover in Wuhan: its enormous East Lake; the chime bells and other cultural relics of the State of Chu; and the Western-style buildings, a reflection of the city's development during the early 20th century. The city is the starting point for an upstream cruise through the Three Gorges.

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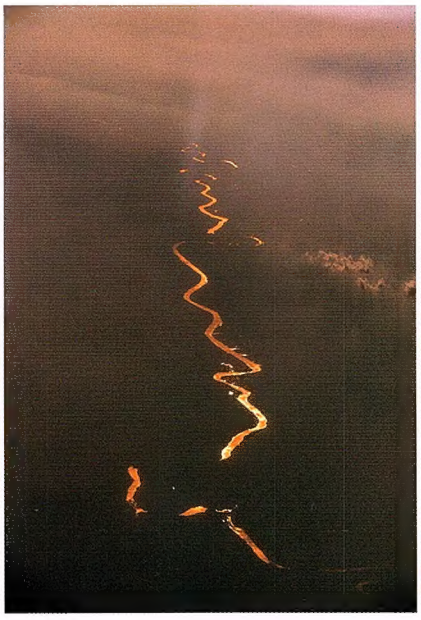
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FROM THE EDITOR

The Three Gorges — an Eternal Legend

Celebrating the 19th anniversary of *China Tourism*, we proudly present the story of an eternal legend — the Three Gorges — in this issue. To the majority of travellers, summer and autumn are preferred for touring the Three Gorges. In fact, the gorges are equally charming when they are coloured with flourishing spring blossoms or covered with a snowy quilt in winter. Through our photographers' cameras the different, bewitching faces of the Three Gorges come alive.

We also follow the footsteps of a photographer, a painter and a journalist who explored the Three Gorges from the air, land and water respectively, admiring its magnificence from various angles. Sharing their extraordinary experiences gives you an integral picture of this world-famous spectacle.

Chongqing is the upstream end of the Three Gorges cruises. This hilly city has long been considered one of China's summer "furnaces". Nevertheless, Chongqing's outskirts abound with summer holiday resorts for escapes from the unbearable heat.

Photo by Zheng Yunfeng

Bronze Art Exhibition, Henan

An exhibition of Chinese bronzes made 2,000 years ago is being displayed at the State of Chu Bronze Art Exhibition Hall of the Henan Provincial Museum in Zhengzhou, capital of Central China's Henan Province. The almost 100 pieces of bronze objects on display are relics unearthed from the tombs of the nobility of the State of Chu of the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.). The exhibits have been arranged in five categories according to their usage, including utensils for food, containers of wine and water, musical instruments and chariot-and-horse fittings. They demonstrate the brilliant achievements made by the people of that time in the art of bronze.

Xiaolangdi Water-Control Project Attracts Tourists

The Xiaolangdi Multi-Purpose Water-Control Project on the Yellow River in Henan Province has become a new scenic spot and attracts an increasing number of tourists from home and abroad. Local statistics show that in April alone, over 450,000 people took the Baima Temple-Longmen Grottoes-Xiaolangdi tour route.

The water project is located 40 kilometres north of the ancient city of Luoyang, where the famous Longmen Grottoes are situated. It is the largest water conservancy on the Yellow River, and the second largest in China, next only to the Three Gorges Project on the Yangtse River. The whole project, financed by the World Bank, is expected to be completed in 2001.

Ethnic Festivals Celebrated in Guizhou

More festivals will be celebrated by the minority ethnic groups in Southwest China's Guizhou Province during the later months of the year.

During the International Lusheng Festival scheduled from August 18-29 at Kaili, there will be bull fighting and bird fighting. Local handicrafts such as cross-stitch embroidery works and batiks will be on sale. Besides song-and-dance performances given by the minority people, there will also be exhibitions and a trade fair of local products.

The Tangerine Festival is scheduled for November 21-24 in the Congjiang area. Activities will include performances of Dong songs and dances, bull-fighting, bamboo-pipe playing by Miao and Dong musicians, evaluation and sales of high-quality tangerines, and campfire parties.



Rare Antiques to Be on Display

The Museum of Chinese History in Beijing plans to add a Treasure Hall within a few months so that some rare Chinese antiques can be displayed. The museum will put 2,000 items on display for a restricted number of visitors daily.

The Museum of Chinese History is one of China's most renowned troves of historic treasures, but only 5,000 items are on display because of the limited space, poor lighting and temperature controls. The majority of its rare antiques, 300,000 items in total which are mainly paintings, calligraphic works and silk fabrics, are kept in storehouses.

Wine and Sweets Fair in Dalian

A national trade fair featuring sweets and alcoholic drinks will be held from October 16 to 20 in Dalian, a coastal city in Northeast China's Liaoning Province. It will be the 61st fair of its kind ever held in China. Each of the previous sessions in recent years attracted an average of over 3,000 participating enterprises and brought in more than 10 billion yuan (US$1.21 billion) worth of business. The coming Dalian fair is co-sponsored by the China Sugar and Wine Group Co. and the Dalian municipal government.

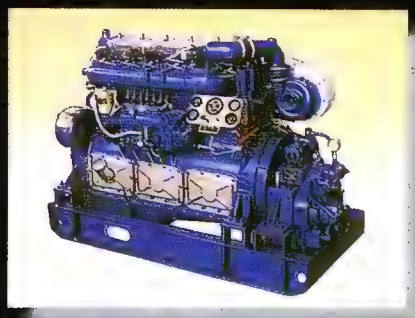
Ancient City Found, Hubei

The site of a 5,000 year-old city has been discovered at Tangchi Town of Hubei Province. A large number of cultural relics from the Neolithic Age were also found there. Ruins show that the ancient city was elliptical in shape and had a north-south geographical span of about 1,000 metres and 850 metres from east to west. It had earth walls surrounded by a moat. Parts of the walls had been washed away by the nearby Silong River; the remaining sections stand one to four metres above the ground.

Last December, archaeologists found another ancient city at Menbanwan, 15 kilometres from this site at Tangchi. So far eight sites of ancient cities have been found in Hubei and Hunan provinces. These discoveries indicate that people began to settle in this area during the very early periods and that the Yangtse River Valley, like the Yellow River Valley, is also a cradle of the Chinese civilization.

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News

Zhouzhuang and Jokhang Monastery: Two Candidates for World Cultural Heritage List



The picturesque water village Zhouzhuang in Jiangsu Province and the sacred Jokhang Monastery in Tibet are going to apply to be on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List.

Zhouzhuang, situated in Kunshan City, 38 kilometres southeast of Suzhou, is an ancient water village 900 years old. The rivers there intersect each other to divide the town into nine sections. People's residences and streets line the banks of the rivers. Fourteen ancient bridges dating back to the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties were built astride the rivers, among which are the Fu'an Bridge, the only extant bridge tower in China, and the world-renowned Twin Bridges.

The holy Jokhang Monastery in the city centre of Lhasa has four stories and is splendidly covered with a golden roof. It is a perfect combination of the architectural art of the Tang Dynasty, Nepal and India. The interior of the monastery is decorated with magnificent murals depicting historical figures and mythical stories. In the Hall of the Buddha rests the seated statue of the 12-year-old Sakyamuni, brought to Tibet by Princess Wencheng from the Tang capital Chang'an, when she came to marry Songstan Gambo.

News

Dragonair Joined the Asian Mileage Scheme

Starting from September 1, 1999, Dragonair will follow 10 other airlines to take part in the Asian Mileage scheme, offering Asian Mileage members air routes for the mainland of China.

With this scheme, Dragonair customers can accumulate their flight mileage for the redemption of free air tickets or for upgrades in their flight class.

The Asian Mileage scheme comprises airline companies such as Cathay Pacific, British Airways, American Airlines, Canadian Airlines, QANTAS, Swissair and Japan Airlines. The first five are members of the ONEWORLD project. Other partners in Asian Mileage include companies from the banking and telecommunication industries, and travel agencies.

Cruise

Star Pisces Transfers to Singapore

Star Cruises announced that the company's liner Star Pisces will transfer from Hong Kong to Singapore starting from September 1999. The ship which is worth US$150 million and has a passenger capacity of 1,800, is going to provide two-night and three-night trips to popular scenic spots such as the South China Sea and the Strait of Malacca.

Another ocean liner, Star Leo, will be sent to Hong Kong to replace Star Pisces in September. The new ship will sail to ports such as Xiamen, Haikou, Sanya, Zhanjiang and Xialong Bay.

Star Cruises is the world's fifth largest cruising company. Its ships sail throughout the whole Asia-Pacific Region. Before 2002, the number of ocean liners owned by Star Cruises will reach 10, with a total passenger volume of at least 12,000 and an average annual growth rate of 25 percent.



Sports

Guangxi

Rafting Tours in Guilin

China's famous tourist city Guilin will develop new tourist products based on traditional sightseeing program. A rafting tour is one of them.

The Lijiang River is the cream of Guilin's tourism and going sightseeing along Lijiang River by boat is an indispensable event. But along with the stronger and stronger demand to return to nature, people are also eager to go rafting on the river.

During the China Ecotour '99, exploring and rafting tours have been well received. Following examples of other places, such as the Lesser Three Gorges on the Daning River, a tributary of the Yangtse, which have already developed such a tour program, Guilin and its surrounding areas have also added rafting tours to their program list. The most popular is the Zijiang Rafting Tour.

The Lijiang River Rafting Tour is believed to be in a better situation, thanks to Guilin's reputation and completed infrastructure. This new tourist program will provide a variety of services to satisfy demands of tourists from home and abroad, specially the young.

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Cruise Information



Touring the world on luxurious liners has become a chic choice for world-wide travellers nowadays. If you are planning to go on a cruise right now, you are advised to consult the "Cruise Specialists" homepage (http://www.cruiseinc.com) for some practical advice.

This homepage is especially useful, providing detailed information, routes, rates and inquiry services of each liner for travellers to make their own decision. Moreover, tips for enjoying a cruise are included so that holiday-makers understand more about such voyages before setting off.

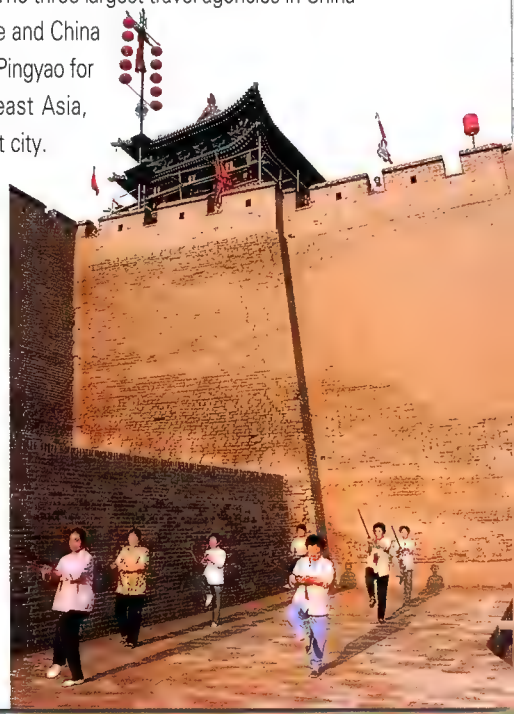
Scenic Spot

Shanxi

Pingyao — a New Tourist Attraction

Shanxi Province in central China was traditionally protected from wars by the Yellow River and the Taihang Mountains. Seventy percent of the wooden buildings constructed before the 13th century in the province are well preserved. In the ancient city of Pingyao in central Shanxi, there is the country's best-preserved city walls of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

Since it was listed as a World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO, Pingyao has attracted even more attention from domestic and international tourism circles. The three largest travel agencies in China — China International Travel Service, China Travel Service and China Youth Travel Service — have all sent senior executives to Pingyao for familiarisation tours. News media from Japan, Southeast Asia, Europe and America have all made reports on this ancient city.



Pingyao is located 110 kilometres from Taiyuan, the capital of Shanxi. It was first constructed from 827 to 782 B.C., and was rebuilt in the Ming Dynasty. It has the province's biggest antique market.

There are over 4,000 old residential courtyards within the city walls, and Shuanglin Temple is situated six kilometres from the city. About 1,500 coloured sculptures are housed in the temple which dates from 907.

To further increase the popularity of the ancient city, the annual Pingyao Ancient City International Culture and Tour Festival is held in mid-June.


A sea of flowers at the '99 Kunming International Horticultural Expo

A Yunnan Tour During the International Horticultural Exposition

Photos & article by Liu Fengqun

The term "a place with spring all year round" describes the weather in Yunnan, indicating that it's a practical tourist destination in all four seasons. Its mild winters and cool summers have allowed Yunnan to support rare animals and plants that amount to half of all the species found in China. Moreover, Yunnan has 25 different ethnic groups living on its territory, and the '99 Kunming International Horticultural Exposition opened in May. All these make beautiful Yunnan the most attractive travel spot this year. Here I share with you my own experiences on a nine-day itinerary.

Touring Kunming, Lijiang and *Dali* in 8 or 9 days

With well-developed tourist facilities, these three places are very suitable for independent tourists. I met many Japanese tourists on the way. Although their backgrounds were different, they were all adventurous and willing to endure hardships. If they could do it, why couldn't you and I?

Day 1: **After arriving in Kunming on the noon flight from Hong Kong,** I lodged in a small, clean and secure hostel at the city centre (30 yuan a bed per night). The biggest inconvenience was that male and female travellers were not separated. I shared a room first with male Japanese students and then Austrian woman tourists, but everyone was polite and respectful. We were all backpackers. In the evenings we sat around or had dinner together, exchanging experiences. This helped to relieve our fatigue.


Buying strings of fried shrimps at Lesser Putuo Islet on Erhai Lake

To make the best use of the time, I visited the '99 International Horticultural Exposition in the afternoon. This 218-hectare Expo is a real challenge for the feet. Fortunately, I had my comfortable walking shoes on.

Day 2: **I joined the one-day sightseeing tour** organised by a hotel to scenic spots such as the Ethnic Village, West Mountain, Longmen, Dianchi Lake and Jindian Park. It costs about 180 yuan per person. It is much more convenient to go in a group.

Day 3: **I took a three-hour bus ride to the Stone Forest** and spent about half a day there. The entrance ticket is 55 yuan. Returning in the afternoon, I dined at Aini Mountain Villa at Xinhaigeng Road. Services of this restaurant are unique. In addition to delicious food and performances of songs and dances, the beautiful girls of the Aini ethnic group offer a free15-minute massage as soon as you enter. After you have eaten your fill, the surprising ceremony of pouring wine into your mouth takes place. Customers all find it amusing and leave with big smiles. But remember to make reservations as this is a highly recommended place.

In the evening you can take the sleeper bus to Lijiang. It is a 10-hour trip, and costs more than 100 yuan. The sleepers on the buses are either double or for five persons and you may find it inconvenient. If you are a single woman like me, consider flying there the next morning. It costs several hundred yuan to fly, but it also saves you from the smokers and various obnoxious aromas on the bus.

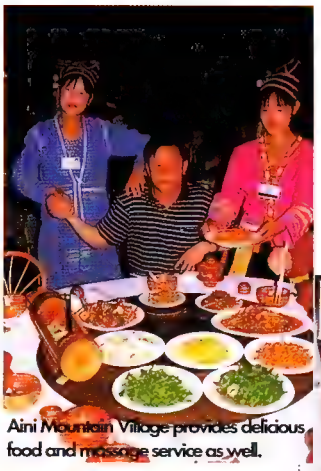
Day 4: **On arrival in Lijiang,** I lodged in a local residence in the ancient town to experience the folk customs of the ethnic people. I went sightseeing in the ancient town first, then visited the nearby Black Dragon Pool. In the evening I dined in a typical local restaurant where you may go to the kitchen to make your order according to the raw materials there. The price ranges from 4 to 10 yuan per dish. After dinner, I enjoyed the ancient Naxi music and appreciated the unique Lijiang culture. Tickets are sold by the Ancient Town Inn on Square Street (35 yuan), and the hour-long performance starts at 8:30 p.m. Buy your ticket early as the theatre has a full house each evening.

Day 5: **I visited Lijiang's suburbs.** At the bus station opposite the Post Office you can take a bus to Yunshanping, Yulong Snow Mountain, Baisha Cliff Paintings and Yufeng Temple (Ten-Thousand-Flower Camellia Tree). Groups of four or more can hire a van at the bus station for a day; bargain with the drivers for the price and places you want to go. The fare is a few dozen yuan per person.

Day 6: **It was a good decision to join a tour to the two major wonders:** the Yangtse River's First Bend and the Tiger-Leaping Gorge. As it is a long trip, it is worth the tour fee of 150 yuan which includes transport, admission and lunch.

Day 7: **After taking a three-hour bus ride to Dali in the morning,** I lodged on "Foreigners Street" at a cost of 25 yuan a night for a single room. The Sanyue (March) Street is within walking distance, and from there you can take a cable car up Cangshan Mountain for a panoramic view of the entire Dali city — mountains, fields and lakes conjuring up a harmonious picture. If you have time, visit the Three Pagodas (admission: 6 yuan). In the evening, you can enjoy the professional massage on the street. The upper-body massage, 30 yuan per 30 minutes, is excellent.

Day 8: **I joined the famous one-day Erhai Lake boat tour.** You can register for it at your hotel and it costs 125 yuan per person including boat and bus fares and lunch. In the morning the boat tours around the lake and stops at various islets for shopping and food-tasting — the one-yuan string of fried shrimps and fish, for example. On the boat, there is a dance performance and the three-round tea service by the Bai people. At noon you go ashore at Butterfly Spring for lunch and then take a bus to tour Zhoucheng to buy batik and visit the ancient residences. The tour finishes at around 6 p.m. You may choose to take a long-distance bus to arrive in Kunming the next morning, or fly from Dali to Kunming on the ***ninth day*** (a 30-minute flight), then catch your return flight.



Aini Mountain Village provides delicious food and massage service as well.



Snack bars offering Naxi food in Lijiang are like

Tips for the Traveller

Climate

Although it is spring-like all year, the dry season from November to April is very dry. Lotion and sunscreen are both needed. From May to October is the rainy season, so be prepared. In Lijiang, it may even snow on the mountain top. The temperature varies greatly between day and night.

Geography

Visitors should beware of altitude sickness as Kunming is 1,896 metres above sea level. Lijiang and the snow-covered mountains are even higher. Take things slowly.

Food

Yunnan people love spicy food. Tourists who dislike it must prepare to adapt or remember to request blander dishes. Famous Yunnan foods include: Crossing Rice Noodles, steamed pot chicken, Lijiang glutinous rice cake and Dali fish cooked in earthenware pot.

Aini Mountain Villa is located six kilometres from Kunming along Xinhaigeng Road. Tel: (871) 461 5483



Overnight buses have cabins with double or five-person berths.

Transportation

Flights: Kunming to Lijiang: 420 yuan; 40 minutes.
Dali to Kunming: 350 yuan; 30 minutes.

Buses: Kunming to Lijiang: 110-160 yuan; 10 hours (day and night bus).
Lijiang to Dali: 25-40 yuan; 3 hours (day bus).
Dali to Kunming: 50 yuan; 7-8 hours (night bus).

Accommodation

Kunming:

- Kunming Hotel **** Add: 145 Dongfeng Road East; Tel: (871) 316 2063; standard room: 680 yuan per night.
- Chahua Hotel ** Add: 96 Dongfeng Road East; Tel: (871) 316 3000; standard room with bathroom: 220 yuan; single room with bathroom: 140 yuan; big room (3-7 persons), public bathroom: 30 yuan per bed.

Lijiang:

- Gucheng Inn Add: Jishan Lane, Xinyi Street, Ancient City; Tel: (888) 518 9000; double room with bathroom: 280 yuan; single room with bathroom: 180 yuan; double room, public bathroom: 150 yuan.

Dali:

- Dali Hotel ** Add: 245 Fuxing Road, Old Town; Tel: (872) 267 0386; double room with bathroom: 120 yuan.
- Hongshancha Hotel Add: Bo'ai Road, Old Town; Tel: (872) 267 0406; single room, public bathroom: 25 yuan; double room with bathroom: 80 yuan; big room: 10 yuan per bed.



FEATURE STORY

The Three Gorges: An Eternal Attraction

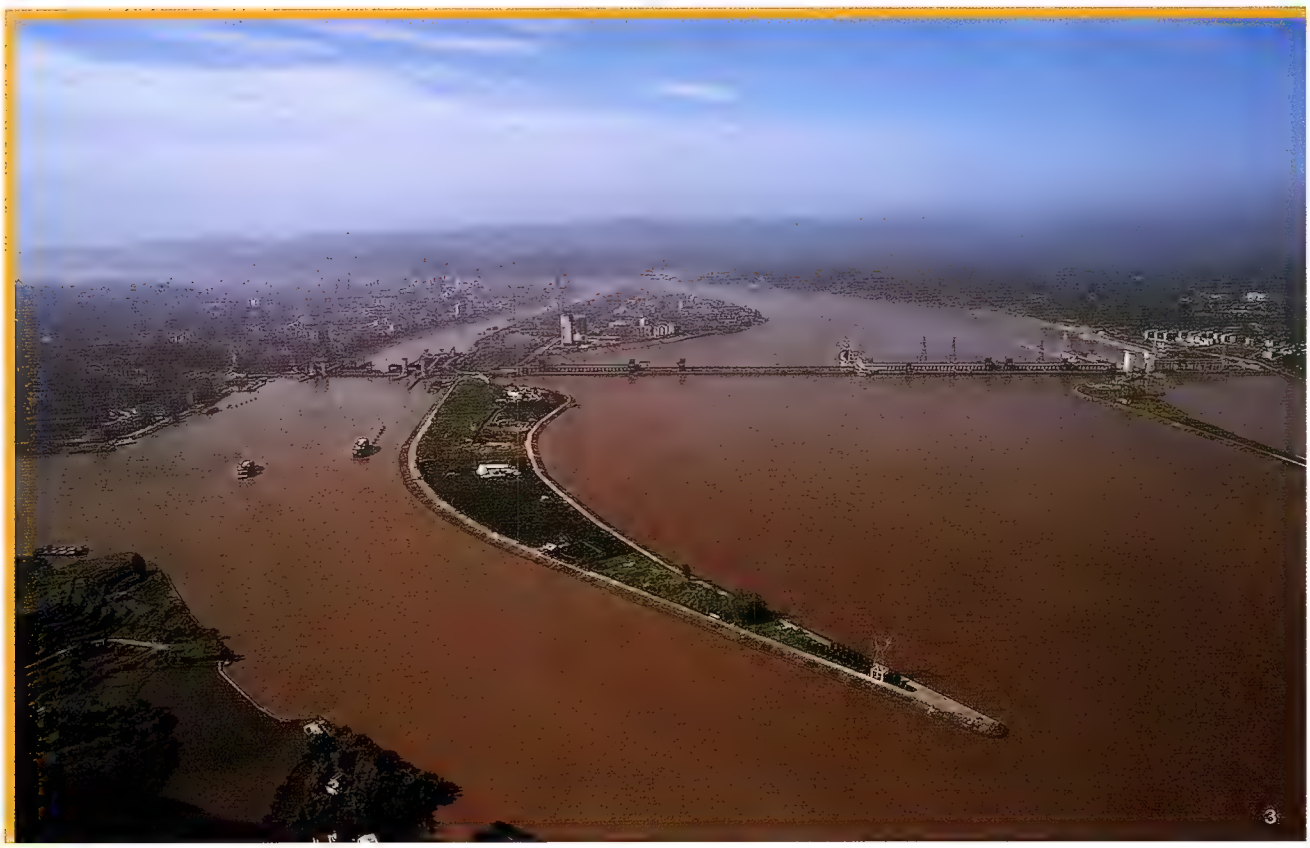
Air, Land, and Water Tours

The "farewell visits" to the Yangtse River's Three Gorges came and went like a gust of wind, carrying excited groups of tourists intent on seeing the gorges for the last time.

But this frenzy passed as quickly as it had come. After a while came the sombre realisation that the Three Gorges were here to stay and talk of their disappearance was merely a mistake.

Ten years from now the Three Gorges will still be there with their natural grace and magnificence, but their previous rapid turbulence will have given way to a vast reservoir hemmed in by towering mountains. The enormous lake will embrace the beauty of Wushan and Kuimen gorges and be embellished with newly-created islands such as Baidi Island, Shibao Island and Ghost Island of Fengdu.

Since the Three Gorges are not about to disappear, visitors can still take their time to tour them. And in each season the Three Gorges hold out their unique charm. Travellers can choose a number of ways to make a trip — by air, land and water — all equally rewarding.



In 1997, shortly before the main flow of the Yangtse River was blocked for the Three Gorges Dam construction, I had a chance to take photos of the gorges from the air. I rushed to an air force base in Xinxiang, Henan Province. We had all our photography gear ready, waiting for good weather. Days passed and we waited with growing anxiety.

One bright morning a fortnight later, we received word for the go-ahead and took off in great excitement. We flew the scheduled route: from Xinxiang in Henan to Dangyang in Hubei and then to Yichang and westward along the Three Gorges to Chongqing.

To see the Three Gorges from a plane, the first time in my life, was a fantastic experience and soon I used up all my films. At our first stop, I immediately had someone purchase more films for me. On our second flight, the wind was much stronger. Over the Three Gorges Dam site, I leaned halfway out of the cabin and was gripped by fear.



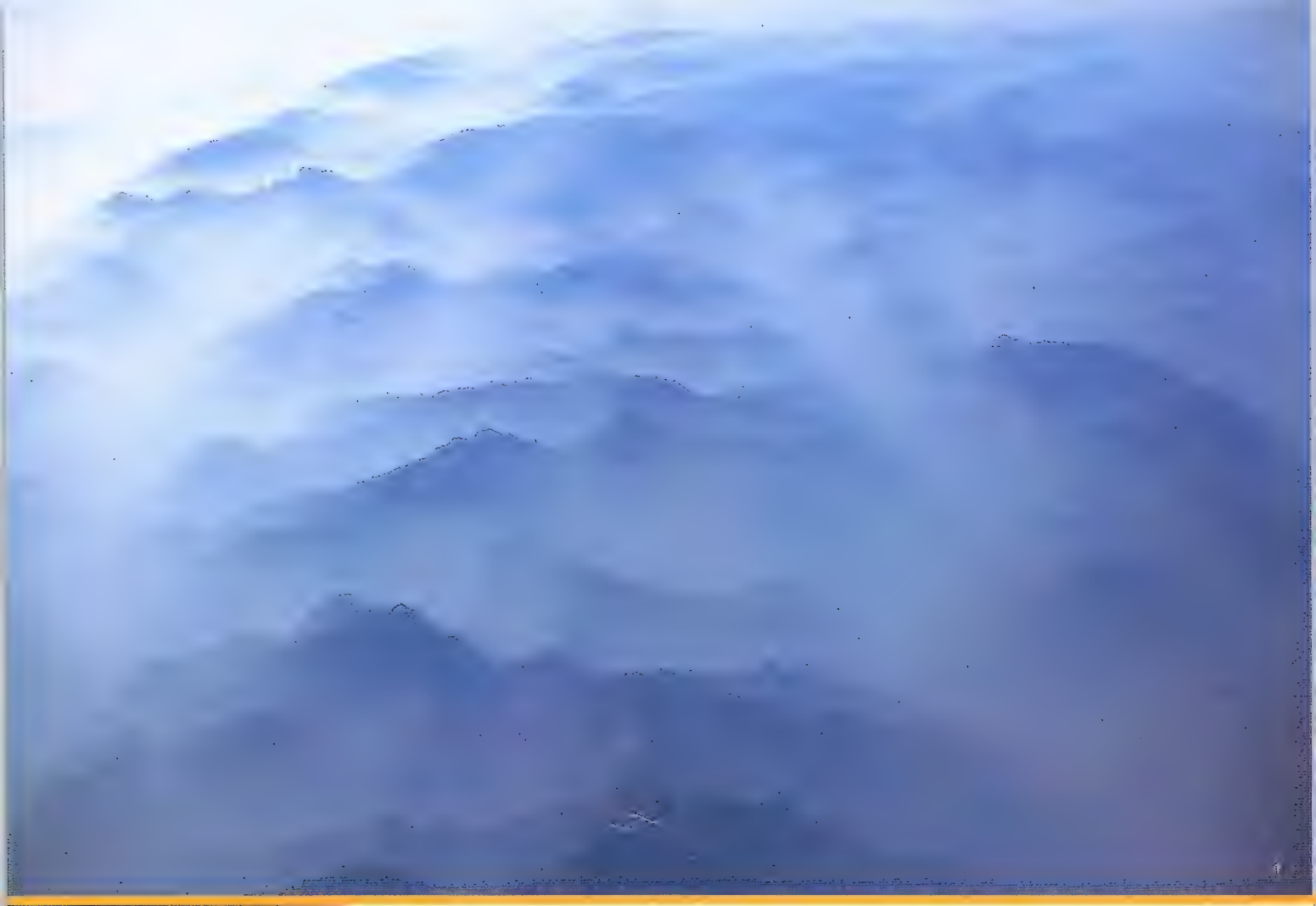
Through the thin white clouds, I admired this famed piece of land. The Yangtse and its tributaries, resembling silk ribbons, meandered among the rising and falling mountains. The river widened and calmed down at Yichang. Here the Gezhou Dam straddled the river majestically. Over Nanjin Pass, the river suddenly narrowed and peaks on both sides hovered menacingly over the water. The Yangtse was forced into a zigzagging course and sometimes was barely visible. Soon, into our view came the site of the Three Gorges Dam, where a cross-century colossal project was under busy construction. From Sandouping in the middle of the Xiling Gorge the mountains became gentle and the river widened again. In the water across from Zigui, the huge stone describing "nine dragons swimming in the river" appeared a magnificent scene.

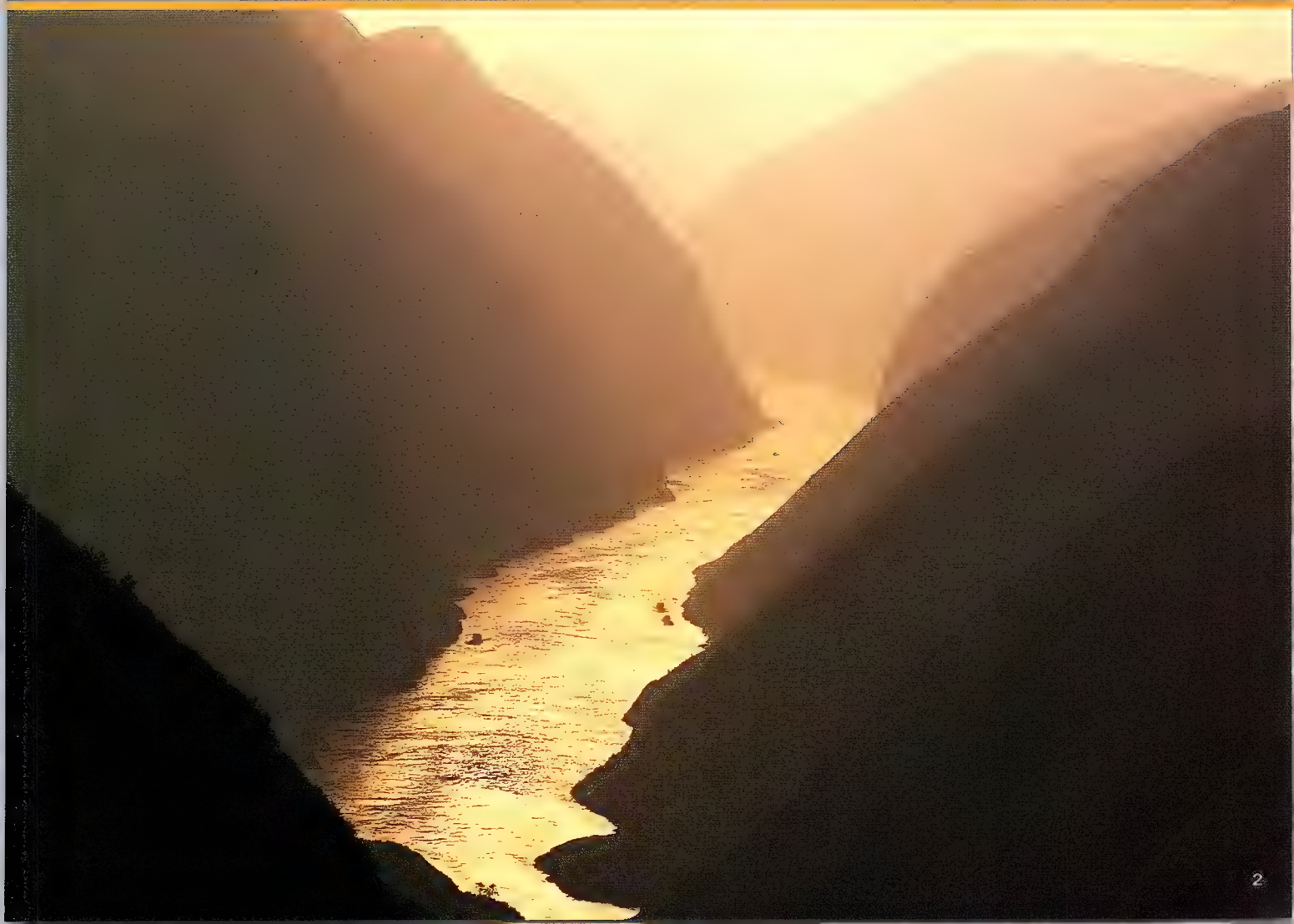
After Badong County, we flew above the graceful Wuxia Gorge, where the mountains appeared as two green belts, channelling water through a meandering course. The mountain peaks cast their shadows in the water, adding beauty to the river which narrowed again. The 12 beautiful peaks of Wuxia Gorge, so often shrouded by fog and mist, revealed their elegance in clear skies. They looked so different from the air.

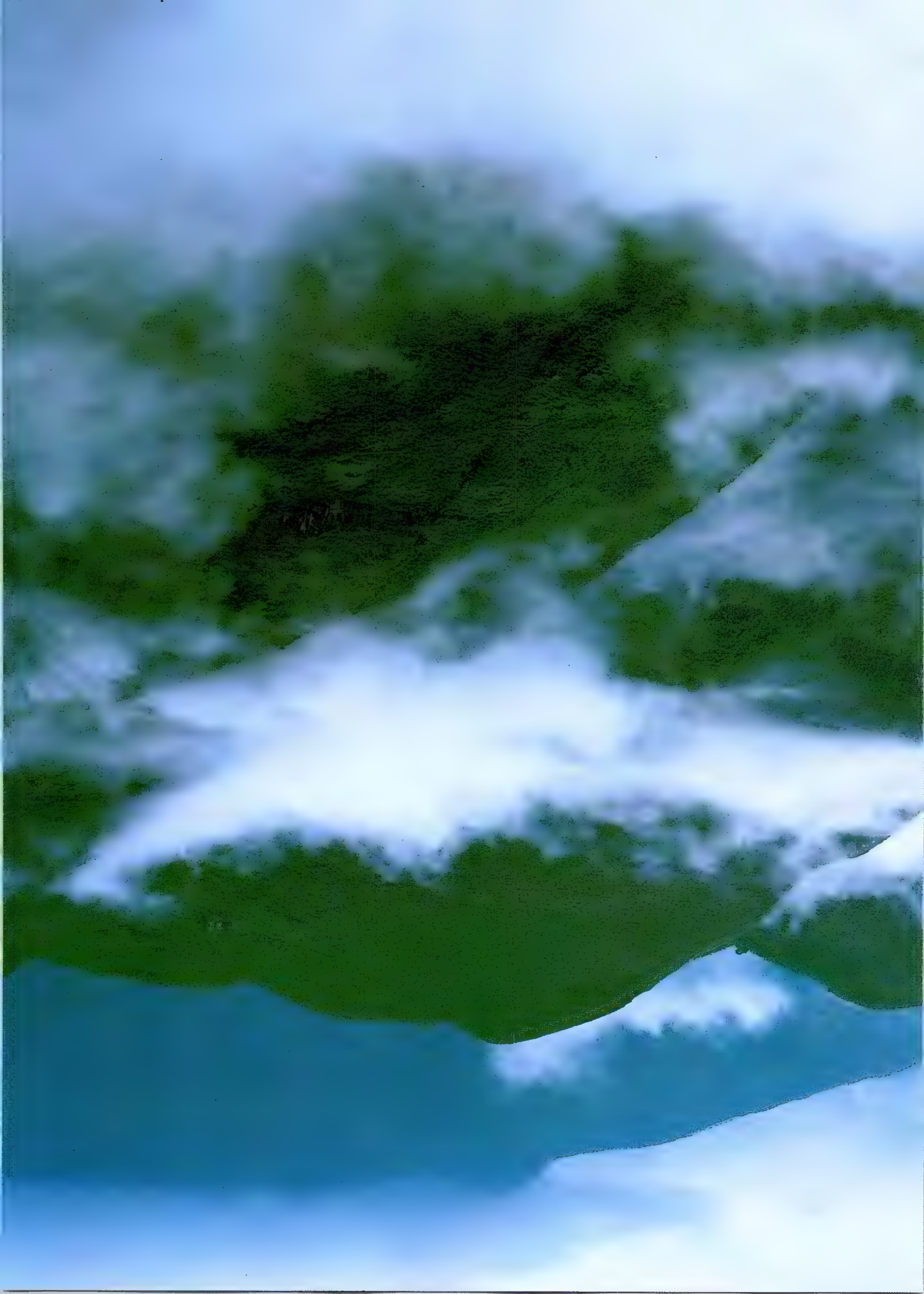
Out of Wuxia County, the river once again widened but soon succumbed to the might of the Baiyan and Chijia mountains and roared forward through Qutang Gorge. The plane circled Baidi Town and then flew towards Chongqing along the river to end our tour.

Previous page: The magnificent Yangtse River

1. The towering mountains that the Yangtse River winds through (by Shi Baoxiu)
2. Wuxia Gorge in the morning mist (by Xie Guanghui)
3. Gezhou Dam viewed from the air
4. Daning River, a Yangtse tributary, hemmed in green mountains
5. The Three Gorges viewed from 8,000 metres above (by Shi Baoxiu)

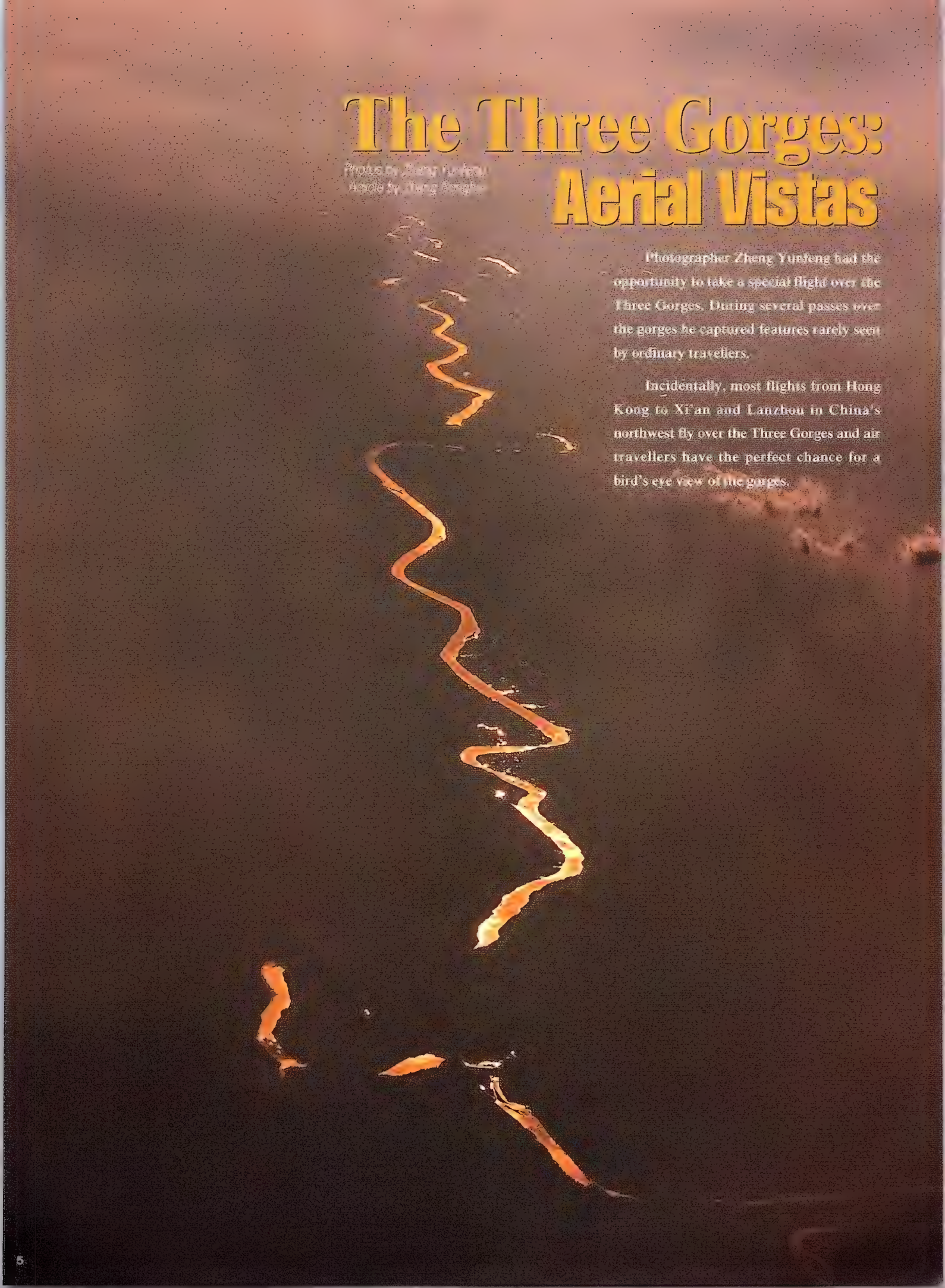






The Three Gorges: Aerial Vistas

Photos by Zheng Yunfeng
Article by Zheng Bonghao



Photographer Zheng Yunfeng had the opportunity to take a special flight over the Three Gorges. During several passes over the gorges he captured features rarely seen by ordinary travellers.

Incidentally, most flights from Hong Kong to Xi'an and Lanzhou in China's northwest fly over the Three Gorges and air travellers have the perfect chance for a bird's eye view of the gorges.

The Four Seasons at the Three Gorges

Photos by Zheng Yunfeng Article by Zhang Ronghui



The Yangtse River originates from Tanggula Mountains on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Absorbing the water and force of contributing rivers throughout its course, the river meanders with an unstoppable might to finally pierce the majestic Kuimen Gate and flow through the Wushan mountain range to create the spectacular Three Gorges. The magnificence of Qutang Gorge, the gracefulness of Wuxia Gorge and the precipitous Xiling Gorge are world famous. While most people visit during summer and autumn, the four seasons here, each with its unique charm, are a fresh topic.

Spring: Both banks are imbued with new vitality: red peach blossoms and white plum tree flowers. The Yangtse comes alive with the fragrance of flowers and the singing of birds.

Summer: The peaks are a lush green. Fog and mist veil the mountains to create miraculously changing scenes. The water roars with a mighty force.

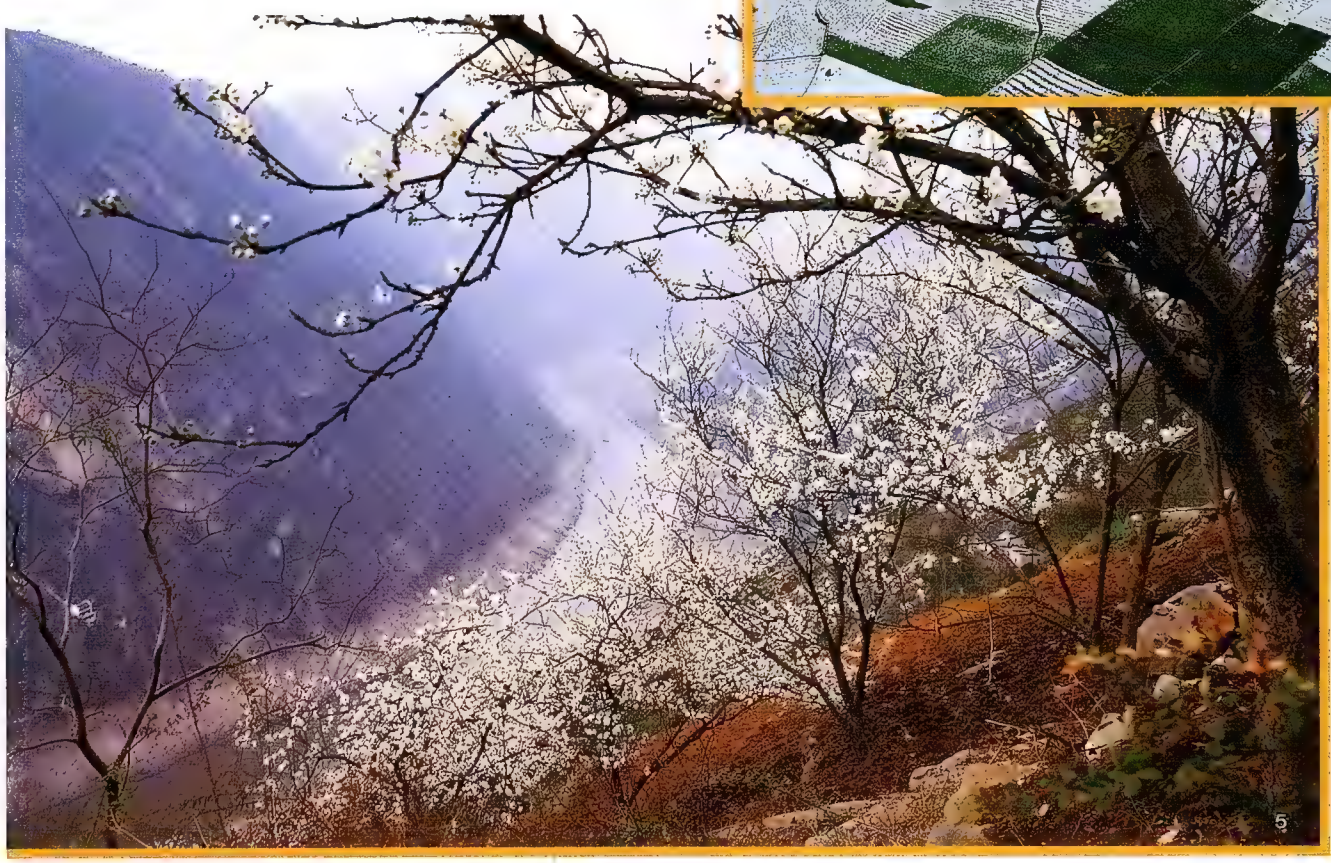
Autumn: The mountain slopes turn red, and orange trees are laden with fruits. There is a sharp, fascinating contrast between the fiery red leaves and jade-like river water.

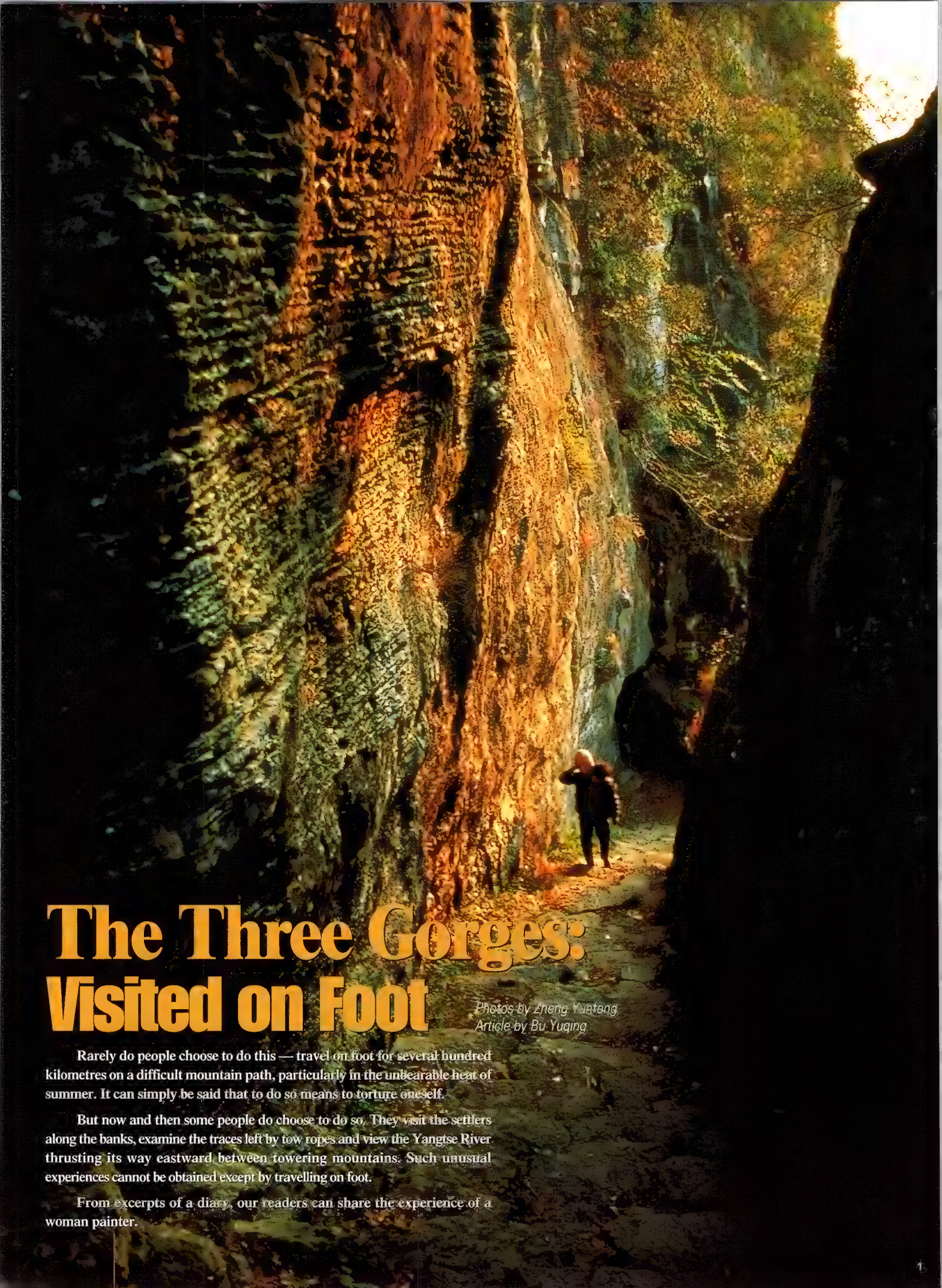
Winter: Mountain peaks stand tall with newly fallen snow. Rocks in the river seem to have suddenly risen to show their strength. The river thunders with waves.

Like a natural painting stretching for over 200 kilometres, the Three Gorges are equally enchanting in all four seasons.

1. The pleasant spring breeze helps dress up the Yangtse River Valley.
2. The changing wind and clouds in summer create miraculous scenes.
3. Autumn dyes the river's banks crimson.
4. The first snow announces the arrival of winter.
5. Prune blossoms add elegant beauty to the magnificent landscape.







The Three Gorges: Visited on Foot

Photos by Zheng Yuntong
Article by Bu Yuqing

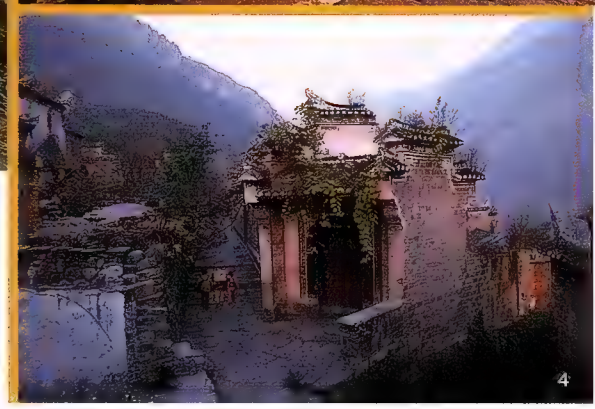
Rarely do people choose to do this — travel on foot for several hundred kilometres on a difficult mountain path, particularly in the unbearable heat of summer. It can simply be said that to do so means to torture oneself.

But now and then some people do choose to do so. They visit the settlers along the banks, examine the traces left by tow ropes and view the Yangtse River thrusting its way eastward between towering mountains. Such unusual experiences cannot be obtained except by travelling on foot.

From excerpts of a diary, our readers can share the experience of a woman painter.







Blistering Attack by Mosquitoes

We departed from Yichang and began our trip along the Yangtse's Three Gorges on foot. Accompanying me was Jia, my husband.

Our first stop would be Shipai Town, Sandouping District in Xiling Gorge. At dawn, we packed some food and began climbing the highest mountain cliff. As we laboured along a very steep path to the top, we passed a house with unlocked doors. A dog crouched outside guarding it. A series of bamboo tubes led spring water from up the slope right into a stone vat nearby. We drank the fresh water and pushed on. The winding path descended and we met the young owner of that house. I asked him if the path would lead us to the Yangtse River. He smiled before he replied, "Of course! It can lead you even to Beijing!"

At a Y-shaped road we followed the left path towards the river valley, but we soon were lost in thick bushes. Immediately we were attacked mercilessly by an extremely large swarm of white-spotted black mosquitoes. The bites were unbearably itchy and big blisters appeared on our arms, necks and faces. The bugs we killed left our palms sticky with black powder. To add to the trouble, caterpillars dangling from trees brushed our skin, causing a searing pain. Unable to endure this situation we escaped back to the turnoff. At the corner of Jia's eye was a hard, walnut-sized blister from a mosquito bite. It distorted his face.

Finding the Best View Point

We took the path on the right to a small basin called Shangfengjian Village inhabited by only two families. A warm-hearted girl named Xu, who offered to be our guide, wanted to chop down the trees blocking the view to find us the best vista above the river, but we stopped her. She went home with a smile on her face after we promised to come to her house for supper.



We crossed two small hill tops. At noon it was about 40°C and so hot that we felt restless. Unable to find real good locations for photos, we took some random shots and rested under a tree, enjoying the sights and sounds of nature. The best view, we realised, was not captured from the mountain top, but from a point half way up the mountain, where we saw the meandering Yangtse River, with Dengying (Lantern Shadow) Gorge to the left and Nanjin Pass to the right.

At dusk, we had dinner at the girl's house. Then we hurried down the mountain along the zigzagging and very steep path. At the bottom our legs were shaking with fatigue and we were sweating all over. In fact, my hair was soaked through with sweat.

An Unforgettable Night on a Cliff

At Nantuo, we arranged to stay at a farmer's house, then climbed Sanbadao (Three-Knife) Peak to view the Heavenly Pillar Mountain across the river. It was hot and muggy. Suddenly a heavy rain poured down. Without shelter and only one raincoat between us, we were soaked by the time we descended to the bottom of the slippery path.

After 6 a.m. the next day, we began climbing Lianzi (Chain) Cliff in Xiling Gorge. As the day heated up, sweat flowed into

1. A mountain path in Xiling Gorge (by Peng Zhen'ge)
2. A boy of the Three Gorges (by Chen Jin)
3. Drying the vegetables for the winter
4. An ancient residential house
5. The Magic Tree worshipped by the locals

my eyes which burned with pain. After 10 a.m., we rested in a shaded spot by a huge cliff rock and admired the landscapes below. Villages looked as they were seen from a plane; river vessels now and then blew their horns; mists cast their weight over the distant mountains; Beituo Peak stood majestically across the river. A group of villagers were coming up the mountain. One young man agreed to let us spend a night in his house. Only at the top of Lianzi Cliff did we realise his home was on another peak. It was noon before we arrived at his home.



There were several villages on Lianzi Cliff and every family was busy harvesting corn. The young man, Liu Zujun, was doing temporary work repairing the dangerous sections of the cliff. He had come home to celebrate his 18th birthday that day. His family's house on top of the mountain was clean and tidy with white walls. Trees and flowers grew both in front and back of the house.

In the afternoon, he bought some fresh meat and preserved bean curd. There were cucumbers, beans and squash at home. Together we had a hearty meal. After dark, everyone sat outside to enjoy the cool air while chatting. The young man's mother brought out a big plateful of melon seeds as a treat. Lying on a reclining bamboo chair, I was filled with a sense of contentment and pleasure, taking in the cool breeze, looking at the sparkling stars, listening to chirping crickets and enjoying the company of these honest, plain and peaceful villagers.

Early the following day, the young man took us to the third peak on Lianzi Cliff called Dawang or Great King Peak, which was deep green and solemn, with the obvious air of a king. Beyond it was Xiangxi, hometown of Wang Zhaojun, a noted female figure in cultural and political history almost 2,000 years ago.

On the way down we saw many monitoring instruments. Apparently the cliff top had a two-metre-wide crack. It was feared that Lianzi Cliff could split into two, with one half falling into the Yangtse and making it change course with unthinkable consequences.

Close Encounter with a Huge Snake

We set out again, with water and food, before dawn. We left Peishi Town in Wushan County and were making our way to Qingshi at the foot of Fairy Peak, along a small path on the cliffs. Our 67-year-old guide said that this path had a 20-kilometre-long section of ancient plank way chiselled into the cliffs. His grandfather had said that many people died during its construction. Nowadays few people travel this overgrown plank way. At certain spots, the plants were over three metres tall and we had to chop a path through. Above, goshawks hovered while below the turbulent river formed vicious whirlpools and forceful waves that beat against the rocks. The horns of vessels in various sizes echoed in the valley. The slab stone surface of the ancient path, barely visible under the grass and just a metre wide, wound along the cliffs. The outer edge had a protective stone wall, sometimes over 10 metres high. It was easy to imagine how hard it was to build this path centuries ago.







1. A cable bridge on one of Yangtse River's branches
2. Sunning corn cobs (by Xie Guanghui)
3. Children of the ancient town of Dachang (by Chen Jin)
4. Launching a new boat on the river (by Huang Yanhong)
5. Wherever the local farmers go, they carry baskets on their backs. (by Xie Guanghui)
6. The sheep are muzzled to protect certain plants.

I walked ahead banging my stick to push aside grass, clear spider webs and scare off snakes. Suddenly I saw a huge snake cross the path. Its head and tail were in the grass, but its middle on the path, as thick as my calf, sparkled in green. I had almost stepped on it. The frightened snake quickly disappeared in the grass. At a turning point on the path, the river breeze blew and we sat down for a rest, eating bread and pickled vegetables while gazing intently at Fairy Peak in the distance across the river.

Traces of Tigers

Further ahead we came to a hunter's trap with several thin wires pulling in different directions. Whoever touched any of the lines would be seriously hurt, if not killed. One side was sheer cliffs and the other side was the valley. There was simply no escape. We went forward gingerly to avoid dropping into the dark abyss below. Uncle Tian, our guide, told us that a large beast must have been around, for there were footprints that resembled tigers, something he had not seen for dozens of years.

Further ahead, we came close to Jixian Peak, one of the Twelve Peaks at Wushan.

A Dedicated School Teacher

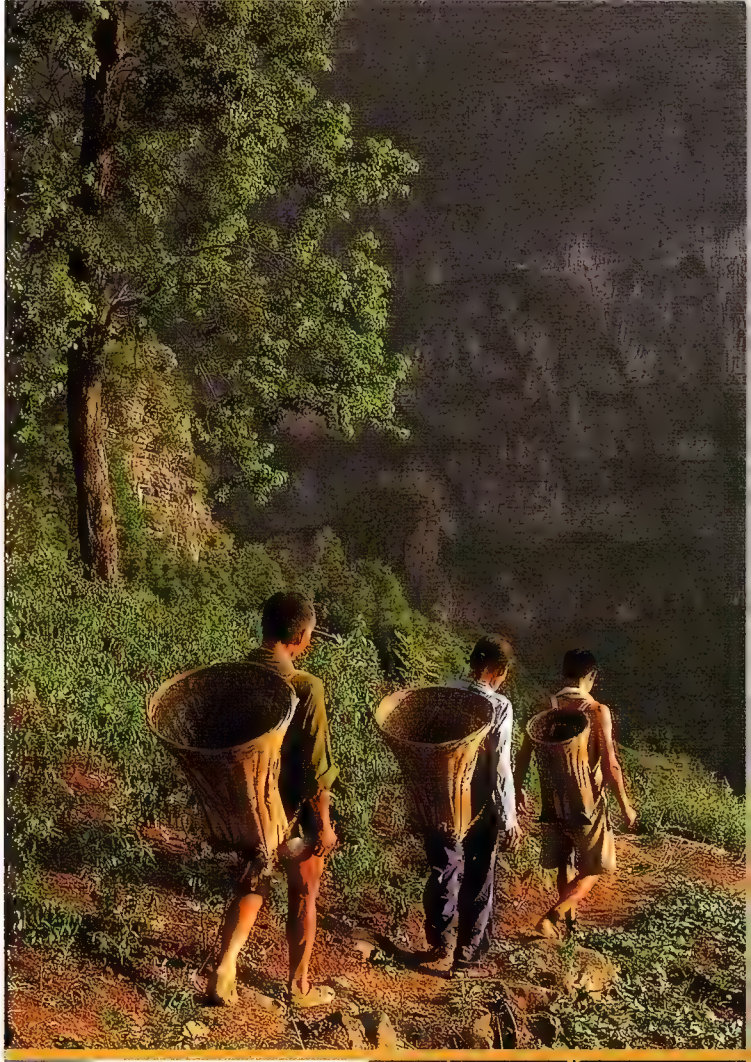
On our way to Cuokai Gorge, we ran into Mr. Huang, a teacher at a primary school half way up the mountain. Every morning he got up at 5:30, took a half-hour boat ride and walked to his school, returning home at 7 p.m. or later. He walked with a student from the village at the mountain's foot. The girl had dropped out of school due to poverty, but Mr. Huang had succeeded in persuading her parents to send her back and he used his own money to support her. This was the first day of a new semester and Mr. Huang carried two bags of textbooks on a shoulder pole as they went together to the school.

Cuokai Gorge is not far from the upper reaches of the Daxi River. From the mountain top, I looked down at the gorge, which was entirely veiled in mist. According to legend, when Yu the Great fought to control floods here, he sent a dragon to dig a river. The dragon asked a white-bearded old man for directions and he pointed towards Wuxia Gorge with his curved sickle. The dragon dug according to the line of the sickle and thus wrongly dug out this Cuokai Gorge, or "wrongly opened gorge". Yu the Great had the dragon beheaded. The pillar where the dragon was chained and the execution terrace are visible.

Into Cuokai Gorge a Second Time

We engaged an old man, Mr. Wen, to guide us along a small road extending along the mountain ridge toward Cuokai Gorge.

After a big detour, we were in the gorge and the path became more difficult. Below was a valley so deep that I dared not look down. The wind here was extremely strong and we





feared being blown down. Near 3 p.m. we arrived at Yaoliangzi mountain ridge, where we could see the pillar and terrace. The scenery was particularly attractive and we decided not to go down. Instead we followed Mr. Wen home. The following morning, I wanted to return to the gorge, but Mr. Wen refused, so we went by ourselves all the way to the terrace, piercing through bushes and vines, getting many cuts. After I did a sketch we turned back. Later I heard that Mr. Wen thought we were on a study mission and so was afraid to be held responsible if anything happened to us.





Into Qutang Gorge

At 7 a.m. we ferried across the river at Daxi Town, ready to set out from the Signal Terrace on White Pigeon Back into Qutang Gorge, the most magnificent of the Three Gorges.

While I was painting, a farmer came with two bags on a shoulder pole. He told me that the scene I was trying to paint was known as "Rhinoceros Watching the Moon".

The path in Qutang Gorge was the easiest along the entire length of the Three Gorges. Though now and then we had to walk through grass, climb sheer cliffs and labour along ancient plank ways, the path was wide and well paved with stone slabs.

Walking along a section of ancient plank way, I saw eight characters carved on the distant cliffs of Fengxiang (Bellows) Gorge. They announced "heavenly path, miraculously built", in praise of this ancient path built during the reign of Qing emperors Tongzhi and Guangxu (1862-1909). It was used when the river was so high that boats could not navigate. What a price people had to pay to chisel the cliffs by hand with such turbulent waters just below!

The Mystery of Gold Cave

On the southern bank of the river was Gold Cave. After the people of the ancient State of Ba lost a battle, they fled into this dark cave and were never seen again. Several dozen years ago, archaeologists entered the cave through another exit and they found weapons and utensils heaped up inside the cave. The cave walls showed clearly visible ideographs describing the plight of the Ba people. Obviously, they were written after the Ba people found that the cave led to the cliff above the river, which meant a dead end to them. This discovery solved an age-old mystery.



On our walk along, we found many square holes on the cliffs. Each about 30 centimetres square, these holes zigzagging up the cliff are traces of an ancient path. Farther ahead, on one side of Kuimen Pass at Baiyan Mountain, is a truly precious sight along the Yangtse River — the famous Fenbi (Chalk Wall) Cliff. This huge greenish rock of about 1,000 square metres has been carved with inscriptions in all calligraphic styles and from various dynasties.

The End of the Trek

At Baidi Town, we met Ding Songyue, a clerk with the Baidi Town Administration who also loves painting. He showed us around and took us to the Goddess of Mercy Cave Temple for the night. The next day, he took us to Peach Mountain. Also called Flame Mountain, this towering peak on the northern bank of Qutang Gorge is often veiled in thick fog. Together with Wuyun (Black Cloud) Peak on the opposite side, they resemble guardians of the Three Gorges' entrance.

Next morning, we ascended the pinnacle of Peach Mountain with great excitement. After the rain, clouds miraculously changed form under our feet. Wuyun Peak pierced the sky so straight and sheer, as if chopped by a huge knife. Like a ribbon, the Yangtse River flew behind the mountain towards Wushan County. Beyond a mountain range, Cuokai Gorge was visible in the distance. The tumbling clouds under our feet made us feel as if we were flying in the sky. Sitting on the stone by the edge of the peak, I felt somewhat dizzy as if a magic force was trying to pull me into the deep valley below. The atmosphere around me was so quiet, magnificent and moving that I did not want to do anything but quietly communicate with my soul. For a long time, I was totally submerged in the language of the great mountains and the great river.

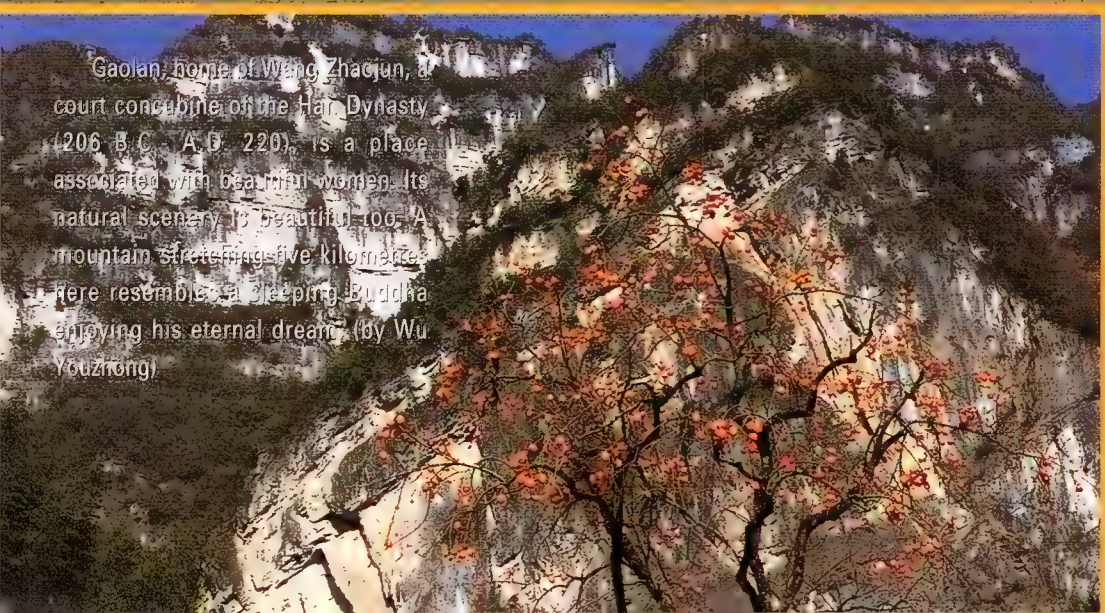
Translated by F. Huang

1. An ancient plank way built on the cliff surface (by Xie Guanghui)
2. Forging ahead on the rocky banks (by Chen Jin)
3. Frequent ferry services bring convenience to the local people.
4. Tourism is taking off in the area.
5. A riverside household

The Three Gorges: A Sightseeing Cruise

Photos by Zheng Yunfeng Article by Huang Yanhong

The most conventional sightseeing tour of the Three Gorges is on a ship. Going upstream or downstream.... Luxury vessels, passenger ships.... Going in a group or individually.... Whichever way you go, you will "follow the river and see the mountains on both banks". Tourist attractions spread out along the river are an added bonus for travellers.



Gaolan, home of Wang Zhaojun, a court concubine of the Han Dynasty (206 B.C. - A.D. 220), is a place associated with beautiful women. Its natural scenery is beautiful too. A mountain stretching five kilometres here resembles a Sleeping Buddha enjoying his eternal dream. (by Wu Youzhong)



The Three Gorges Dam, which is under construction and will be completed in 2009, is a gigantic water conservancy project and also a new tourist destination. The project's second phase will end in 2003 when the permanent lock and the first group of hydro-electric power generators start operating. (by Xie Guanghui)

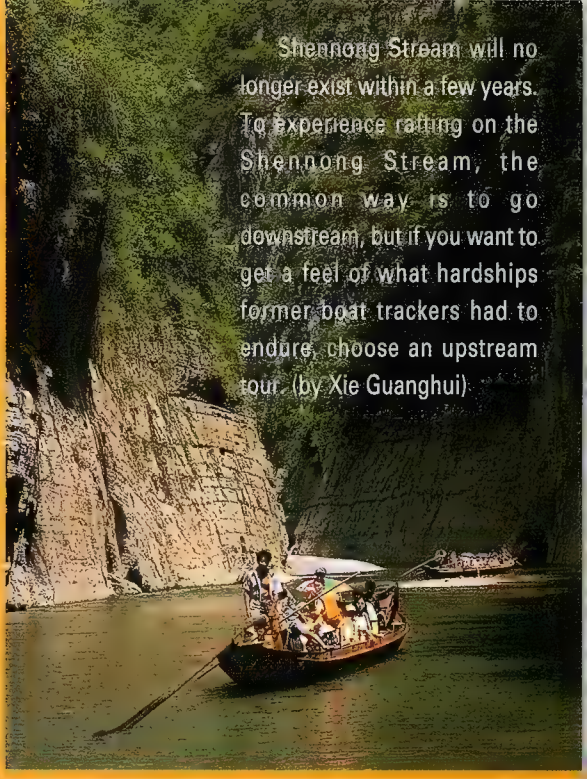
Xiling Gorge

Extending 126 kilometres, Xiling Gorge is the longest of the Three Gorges.

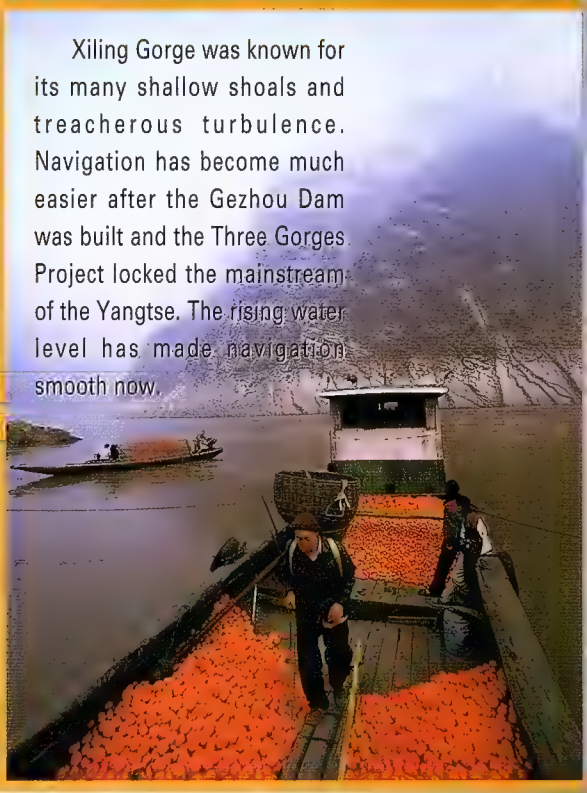
The natural sights in the gorge include the Military Book and Sword Gorge, Ox Liver and Horse Lung Gorge, Ox Gorge and Lantern Shadow Gorge. The first two, both on the right bank going upstream, will become submerged by the year 2006.

Cultural relics and man-made attractions in Xiling Gorge include Nanjin Pass, Three Visits Cave, Huangling Temple, Three Gorges Dam, and the former residences of Qu Yuan and Wang Zhaojun. Qu Yuan's residence and the whole town of Xiangxi, home of Wang Zhaojun, will be under water by 2006. There will be a new and interesting sight then.

In June 2003, the water level in the Three Gorges Reservoir will rise to 135 metres, bringing it up to the same level as Wanxian County in Chongqing. Then, an upstream cruise will be as smooth as a downstream one. (by Peng Zhen'ge)

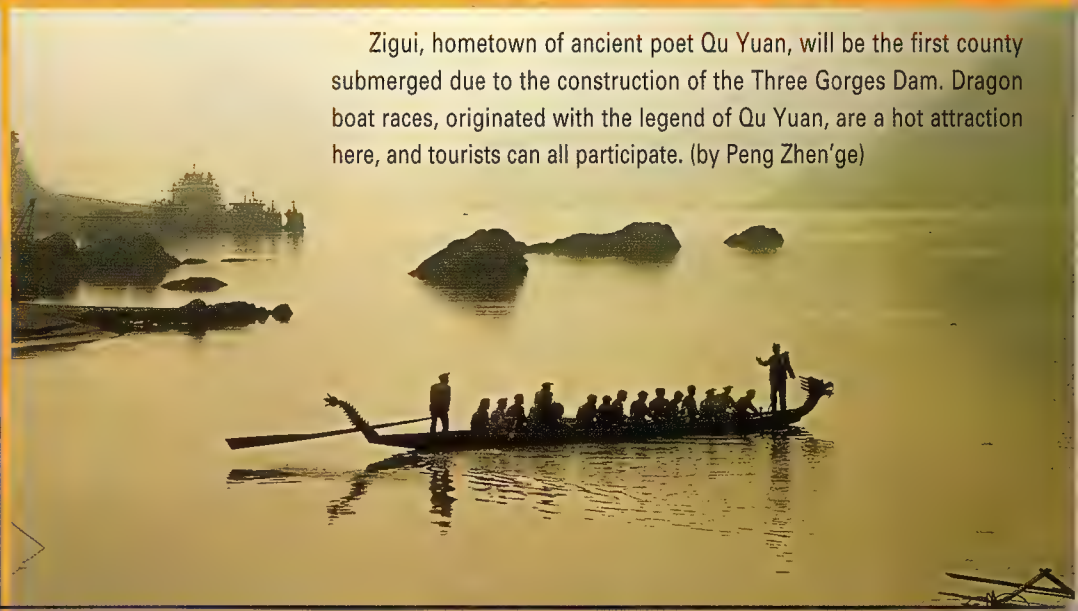


Shennong Stream will no longer exist within a few years. To experience rafting on the Shennong Stream, the common way is to go downstream, but if you want to get a feel of what hardships former boat trackers had to endure, choose an upstream tour. (by Xie Guanghui)



Xiling Gorge was known for its many shallow shoals and treacherous turbulence. Navigation has become much easier after the Gezhou Dam was built and the Three Gorges Project locked the mainstream of the Yangtse. The rising water level has made navigation smooth now.





Zigui, hometown of ancient poet Qu Yuan, will be the first county submerged due to the construction of the Three Gorges Dam. Dragon boat races, originated with the legend of Qu Yuan, are a hot attraction here, and tourists can all participate. (by Peng Zhen'ge)



Wuxia Gorge

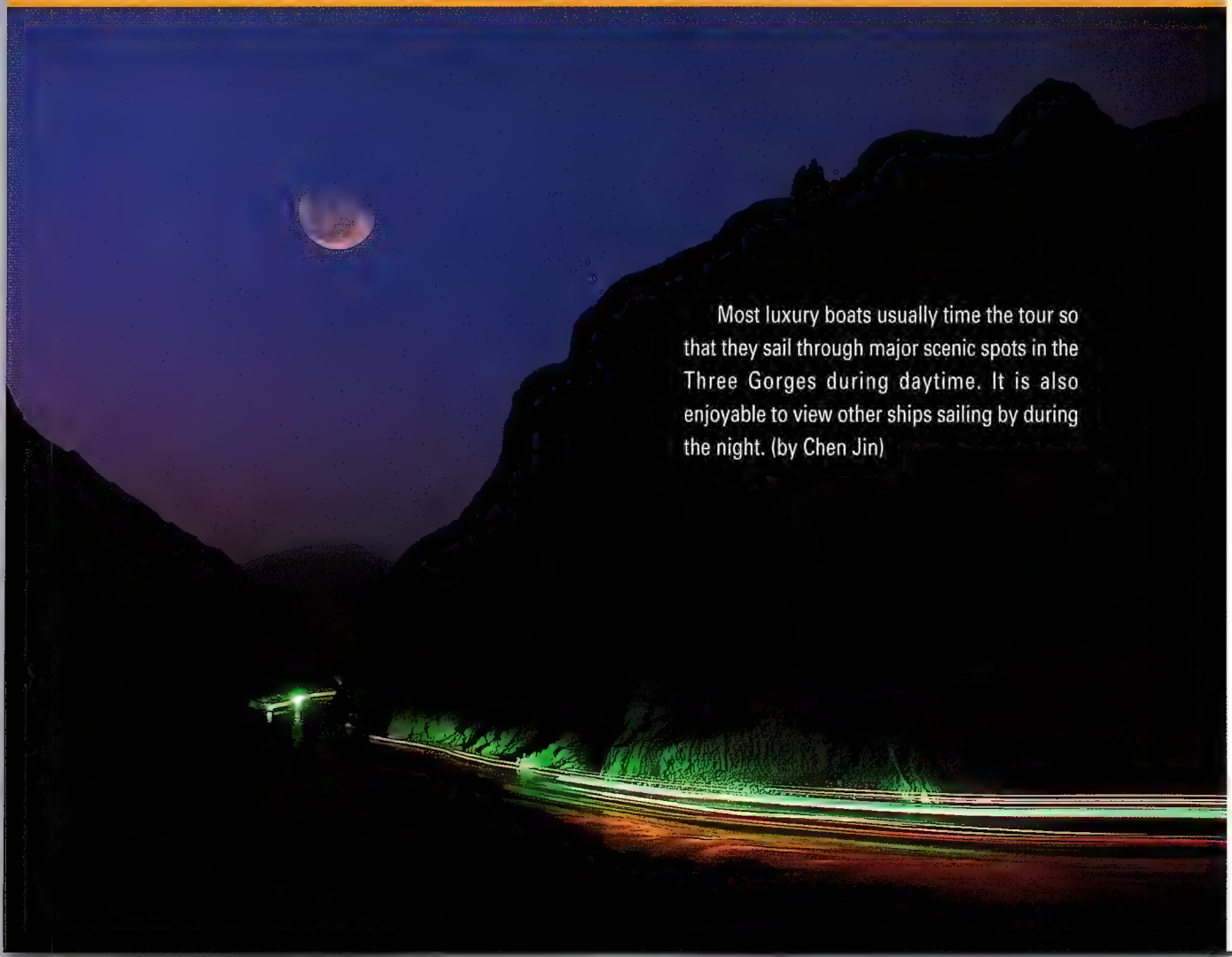
Wuxia Gorge, 42 kilometres long, is the most beautiful of the three. Thanks to nature's creativity, we have this poetically pretty river gorge. Since ancient times, the gorge has been famous for its "cloud and rain at Wushan Mountain", a spectacular sight where the entire gorge is filled with mist.

Entering Wuxia Gorge from Badong you will soon arrive at Iron Coffin Gorge. Three kilometres further upstream, there are four characters on the cliff, meaning "boundary between Sichuan and Hubei". It is said that trees and grasses growing in this boundary area between Hubei and Chongqing (formerly part of Sichuan) all bend towards their own home province. (by Xie Guanghui)



One of the major tasks of the Three Gorges Project is the relocation of a huge amount of residents. The process of moving some 1.2 million people to their new homes is now under way. (by Xie Guanghui)





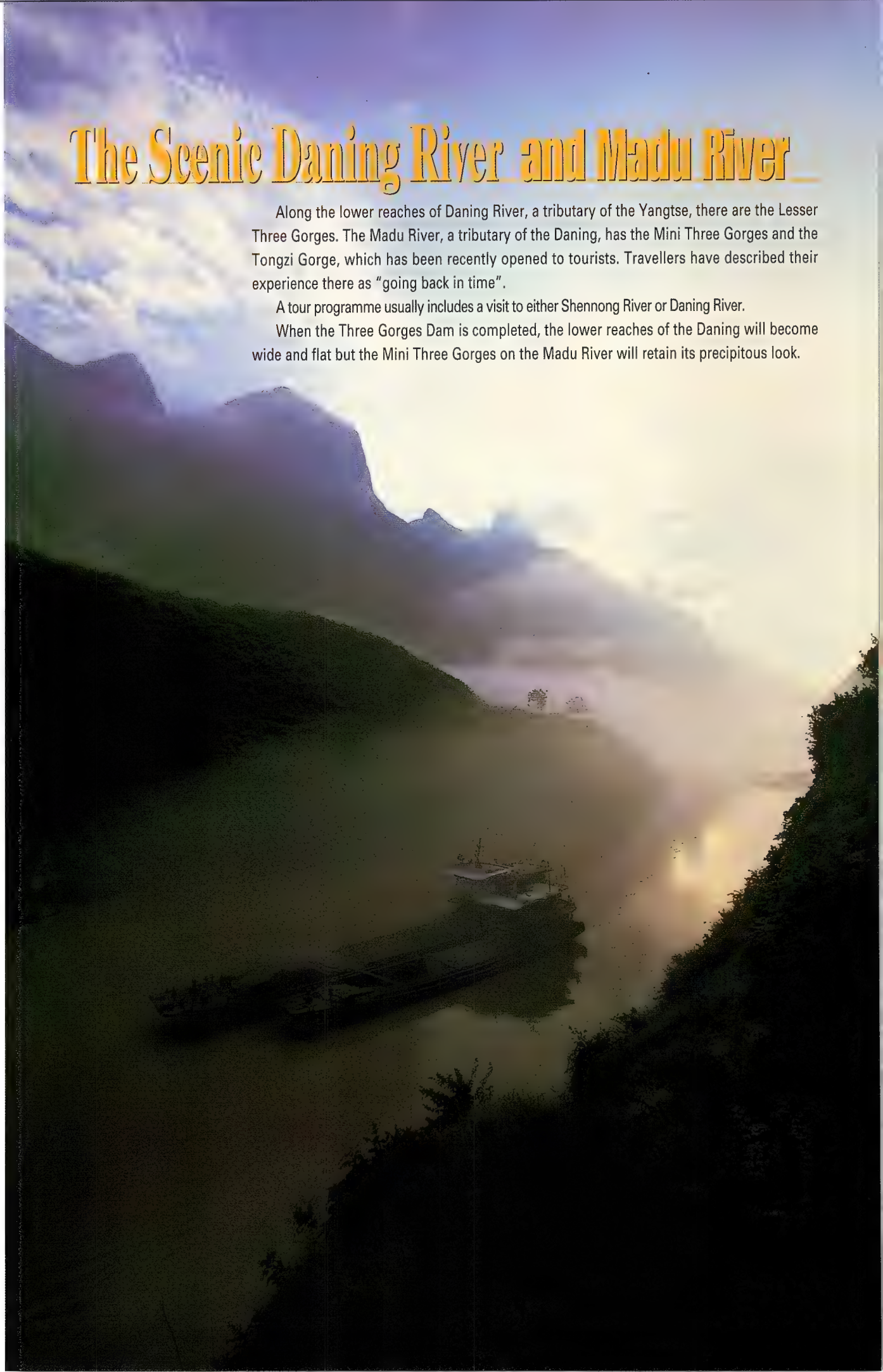
Most luxury boats usually time the tour so that they sail through major scenic spots in the Three Gorges during daytime. It is also enjoyable to view other ships sailing by during the night. (by Chen Jin)

The Scenic Daning River and Madu River

Along the lower reaches of Daning River, a tributary of the Yangtse, there are the Lesser Three Gorges. The Madu River, a tributary of the Daning, has the Mini Three Gorges and the Tongzi Gorge, which has been recently opened to tourists. Travellers have described their experience there as "going back in time".

A tour programme usually includes a visit to either Shennong River or Daning River.

When the Three Gorges Dam is completed, the lower reaches of the Daning will become wide and flat but the Mini Three Gorges on the Madu River will retain its precipitous look.

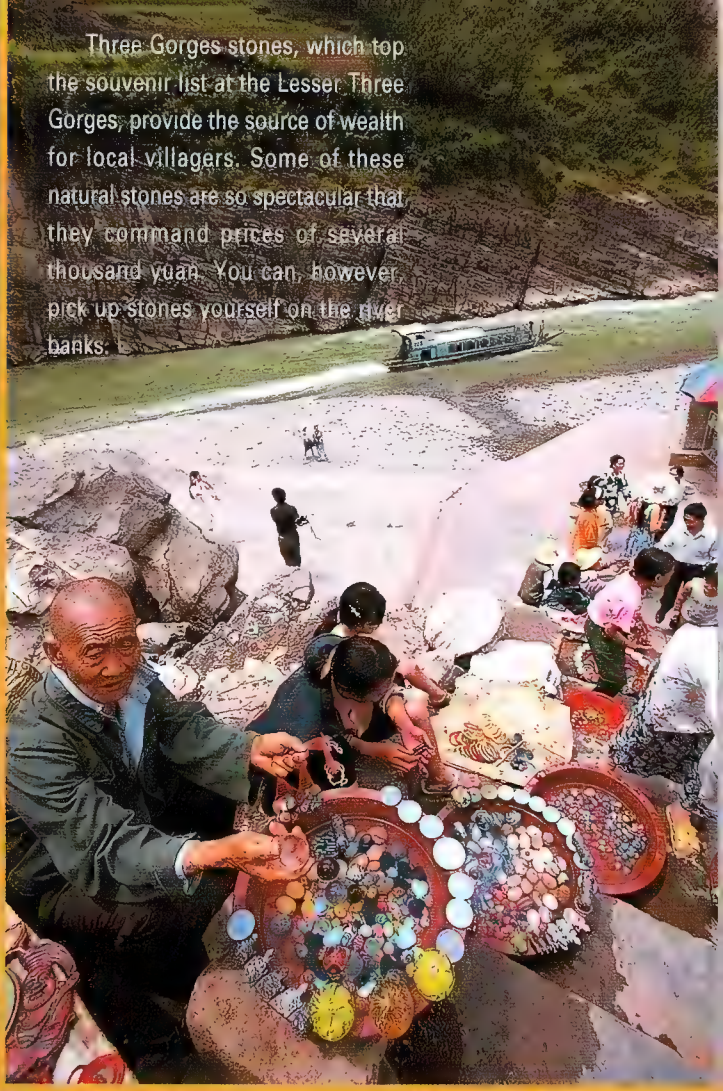


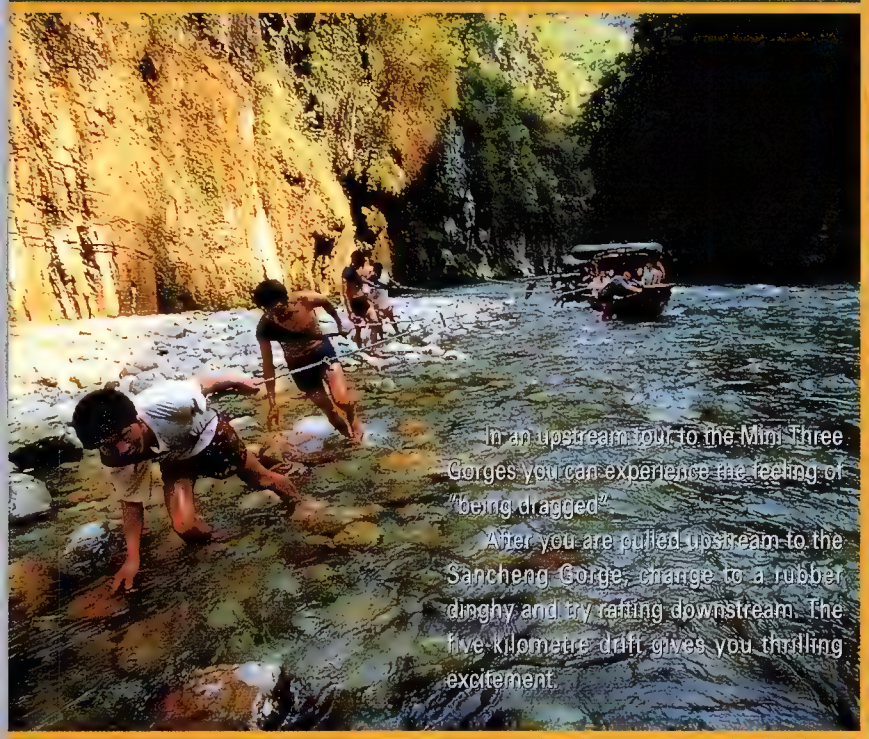


At Dicui Gorge near Dachang Town, the third one of the Lesser Three Gorges on the Daning, the water is intoxicatingly clear. No wonder so many people love to swim here.

While touring Daning River there are two choices. One is to visit only the Lesser Three Gorges and the other is to reach the far end of Dicui Gorge and then change to smaller boats to visit the Madu's Mini Three Gorges. (by Xie Guanghui)

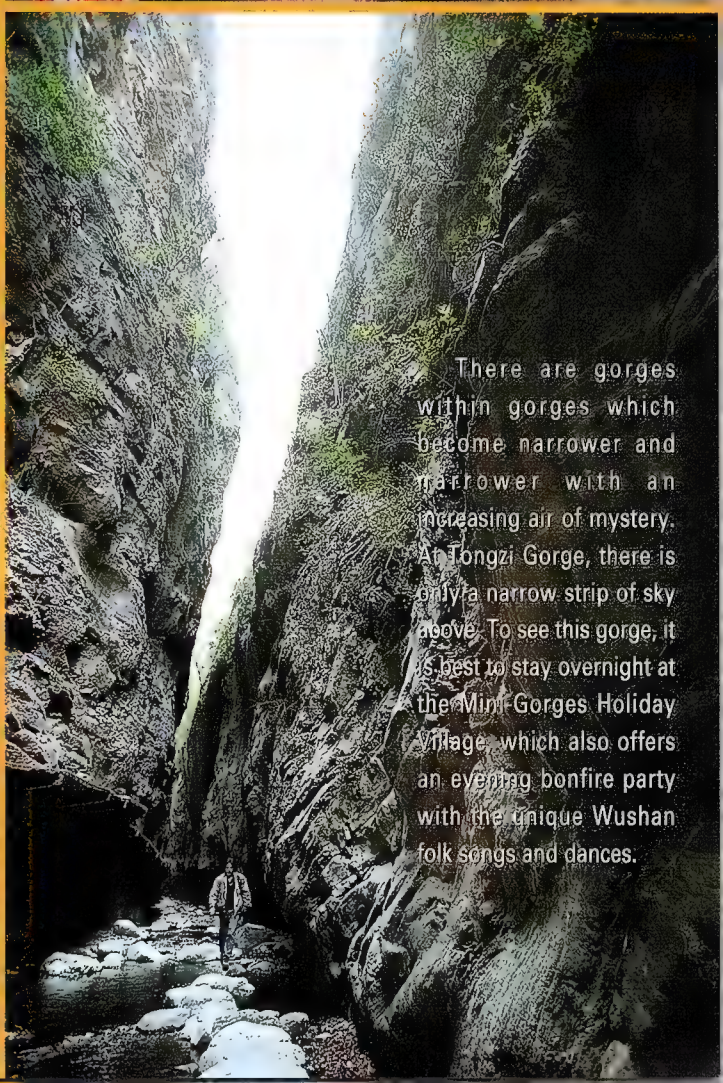
Three Gorges stones, which top the souvenir list at the Lesser Three Gorges, provide the source of wealth for local villagers. Some of these natural stones are so spectacular that they command prices of several thousand yuan. You can, however, pick up stones yourself on the river banks.





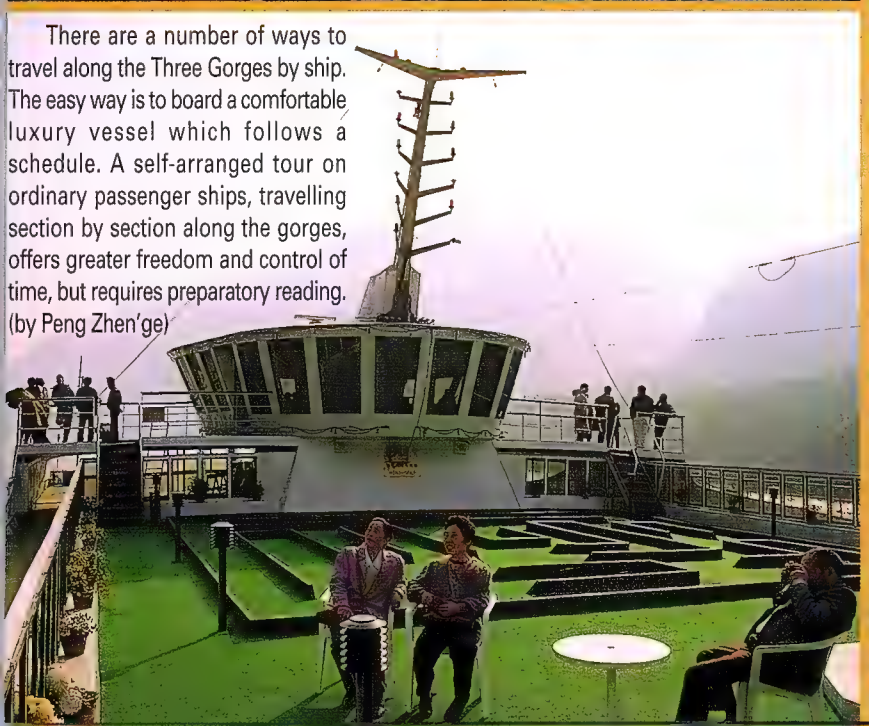
In an upstream tour to the Mini Three Gorges you can experience the feeling of "being dragged".

After you are pulled upstream to the Sancheng Gorge, change to a rubber dinghy and try rafting downstream. The five-kilometre drift gives you thrilling excitement.



There are gorges within gorges which become narrower and narrower with an increasing air of mystery. At Tongzi Gorge, there is only a narrow strip of sky above. To see this gorge, it is best to stay overnight at the Mini Gorges Holiday Village, which also offers an evening bonfire party with the unique Wushan folk songs and dances.

There are a number of ways to travel along the Three Gorges by ship. The easy way is to board a comfortable luxury vessel which follows a schedule. A self-arranged tour on ordinary passenger ships, travelling section by section along the gorges, offers greater freedom and control of time, but requires preparatory reading. (by Peng Zhen'ge)



Qutang Gorge

Qutang Gorge is the shortest but the most dangerous of the Three Gorges, with the steepest cliffs. At Kuimen, you feel most strongly the presence of this gorge's special character. Mountain peaks on both banks rise straight to a height of 1,500 metres.

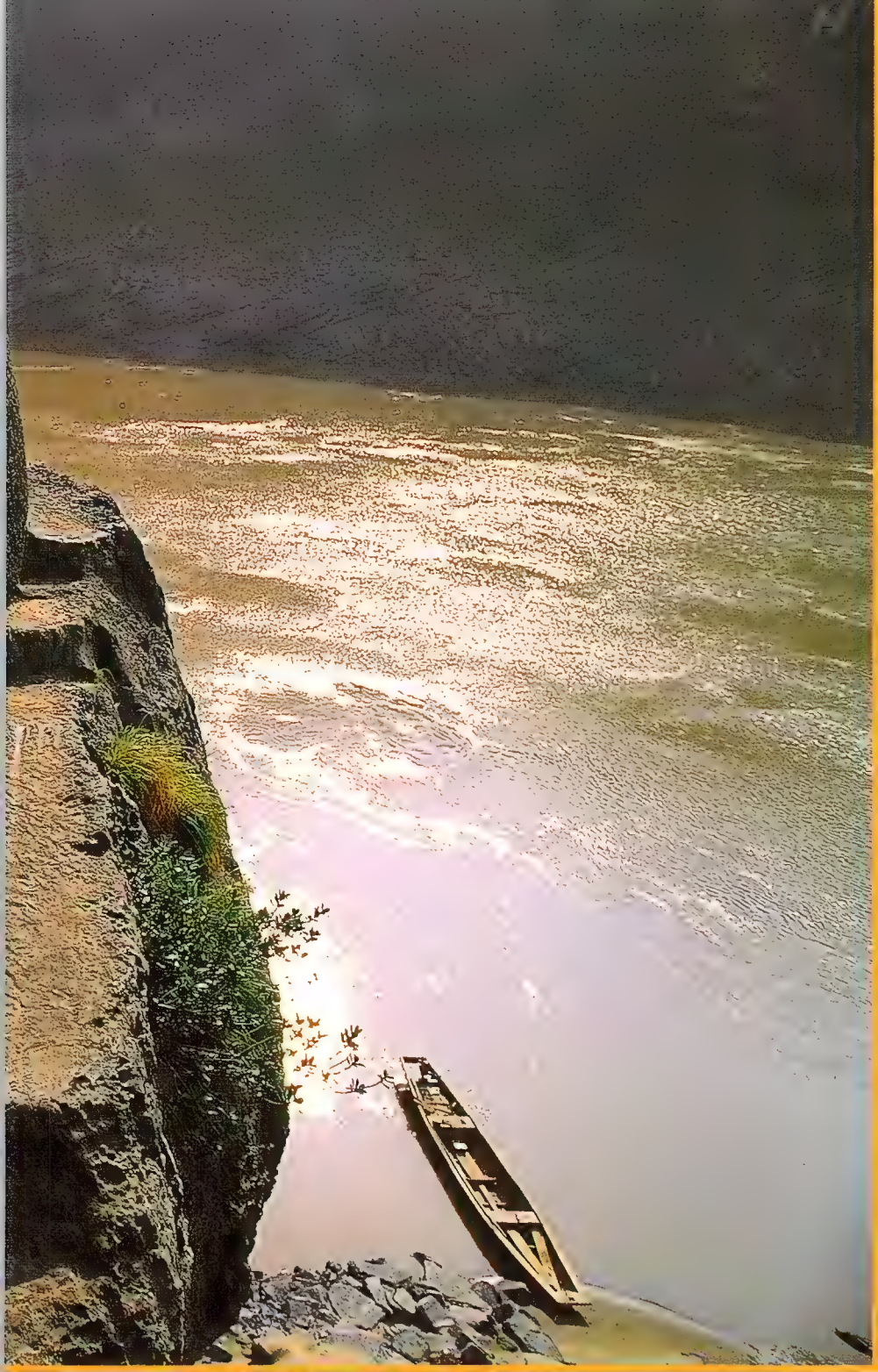
The ancient path built on the sheer cliffs is unique to Qutang Gorge. It is not hard to imagine the difficulties involved in chiselling out a path here. When first completed, the path was wide enough to allow the sedan chair of the Kuimen Prefecture governor to be carried through by eight bearers. Even today, most of the path foundation remains solid. Some sections of the plank way will be covered in water when the dam is completed.

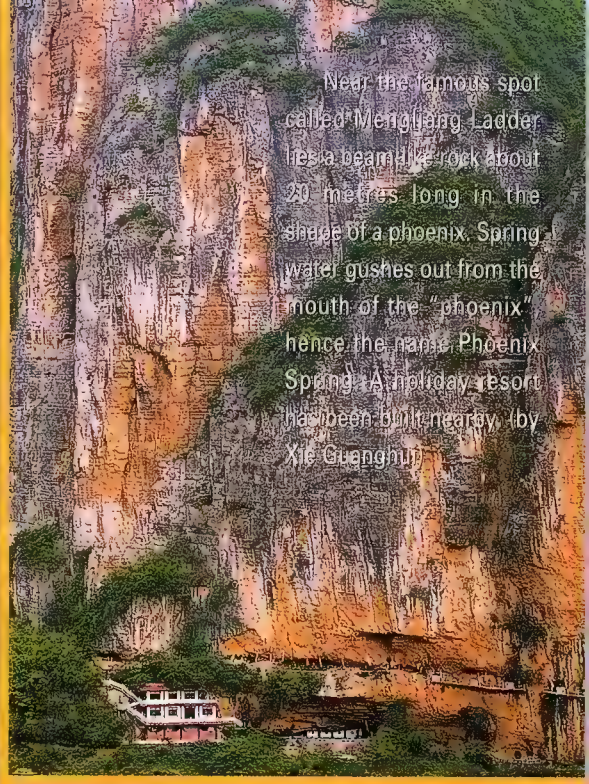
So now it is the time to tour along the ancient path with your camera. (by Chen Jin)



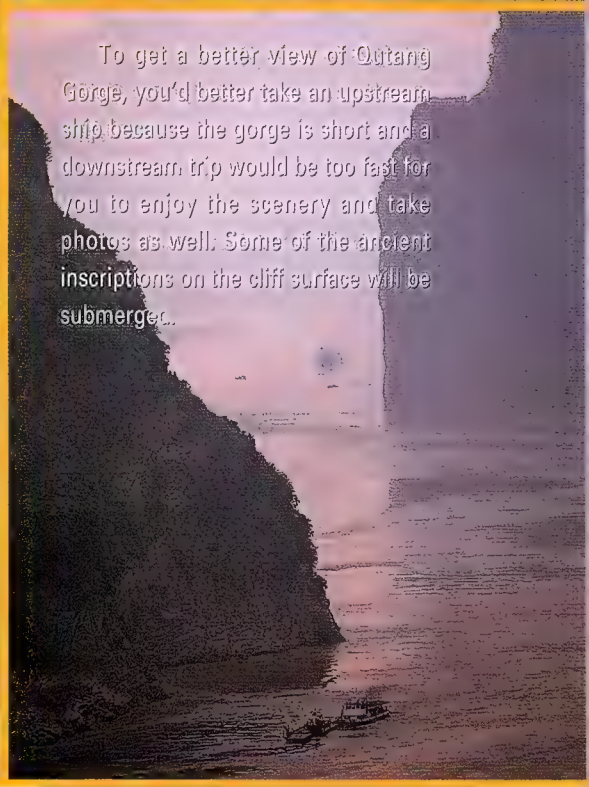
Half way up the mountain facing Fenbi Cliff, an old cannon has been put into position to remind us of history. The scenery of Qutang Gorge from the viewing terrace is most rewarding. (by Xie Guanghui)



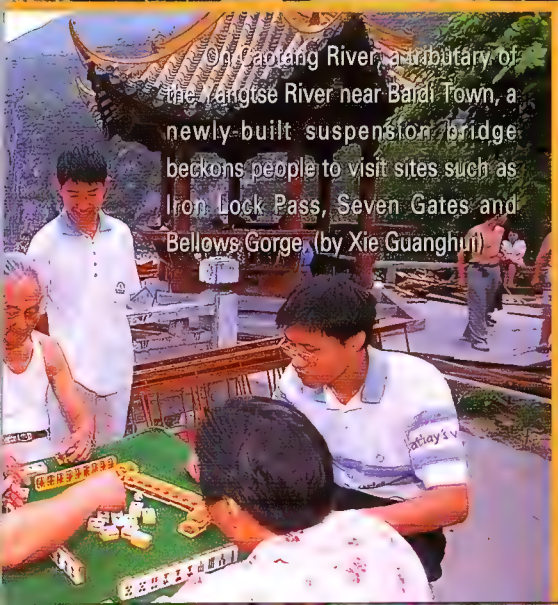




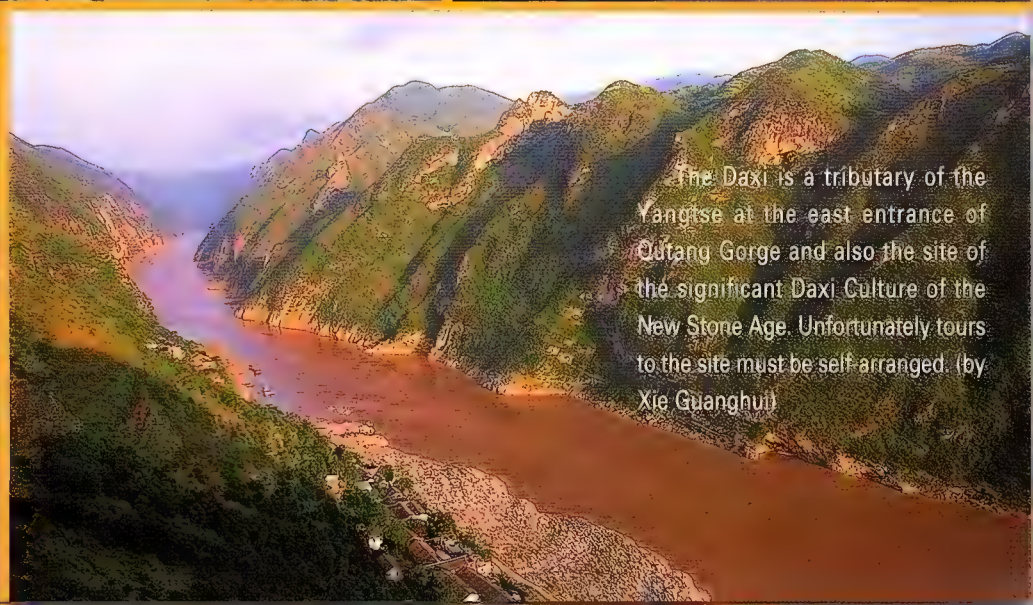
Near the famous spot called Mengtiang Ladder lies a beautiful rock about 20 metres long in the shape of a phoenix. Spring water gushes out from the mouth of the "phoenix" hence the name Phoenix Spring. A holiday resort has been built nearby. (by Xie Guanghui)



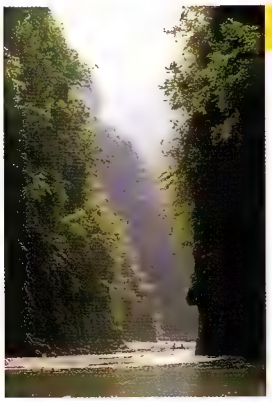
To get a better view of Qutang Gorge, you'd better take an upstream ship because the gorge is short and a downstream trip would be too fast for you to enjoy the scenery and take photos as well. Some of the ancient inscriptions on the cliff surface will be submerged.



On Daotang River, a tributary of the Yangtse River near Baidi Town, a newly-built suspension bridge beckons people to visit sites such as Iron Lock Pass, Seven Gates and Bellows Gorge. (by Xie Guanghui)



The Daxi is a tributary of the Yangtse at the east entrance of Qutang Gorge and also the site of the significant Daxi Culture of the New Stone Age. Unfortunately tours to the site must be self-arranged. (by Xie Guanghui)



The Mini Three Gorges

The Mini Three Gorges, Madu Gorge, Qinwang Gorge and Xiniu (Rhinoceros) Gorge, extend 20 kilometres on Madu River, a tributary of the Yangtse. With clear water and amazing cliffs, they have become a major attraction to travellers to the Three Gorges.



Qutang Gorge

Qutang Gorge, eight kilometres long, is referred to the section from Fengjie in the west to Wushan County in the east. The narrowest and shortest of the Three Gorges, it is famous for its grandeur and perpendicular cliffs standing 1,500 metres high.

The Lesser Three Gorges

The Lesser Three Gorges is referred to Longmen Gorge, Bawu Gorge and Dicui Gorge on Daning River, a major tributary of the Yangtse. They are famous for their imposing mountains, dangerous shoals and crystal-clear waters.



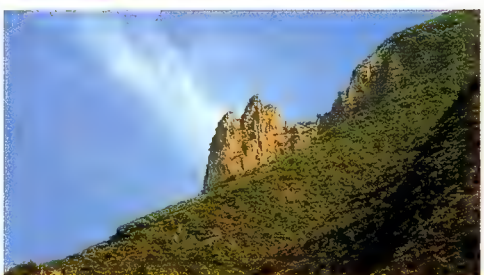






Zigui

Zigui is the hometown of Qu Yuan, a great poet of the Warring States Period. The Qu Yuan Temple in town will be moved to the new site, together with the resettlement of Zigui, which will be submerged when the Three Gorges Project is finished. Dragon boat races are held in Zigui as a tourist program.



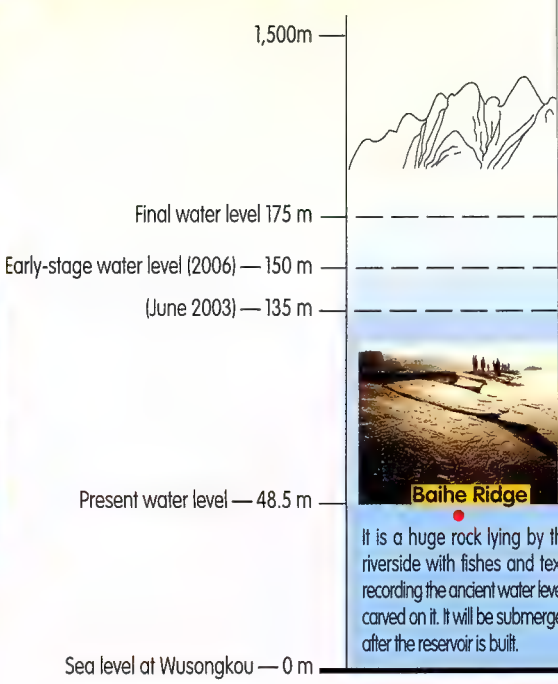
Wuxia Gorge

Wuxia Gorge is the longest and the most beautiful of the Three Gorges with many deep, tranquil valleys and vast volumes of water. The most famous scenic spot is the Shennü Peak, one of the 12 peaks of Mt. Wushan.



Shennong Stream

Shennong Stream is another tributary of the Yangtse. Rafting along a branch of the stream to enter its main course via the four-kilometre-long Mianzhu Gorge is a refreshing and thrilling experience.





Xiling Gorge

Xiling Gorge is the longest of the Three Gorges. It is famous for its dangerous shoals and rapids, of which the Xietan, Qingtan and Kongling, known as the "Three Xiling Shoals", are the most famous.

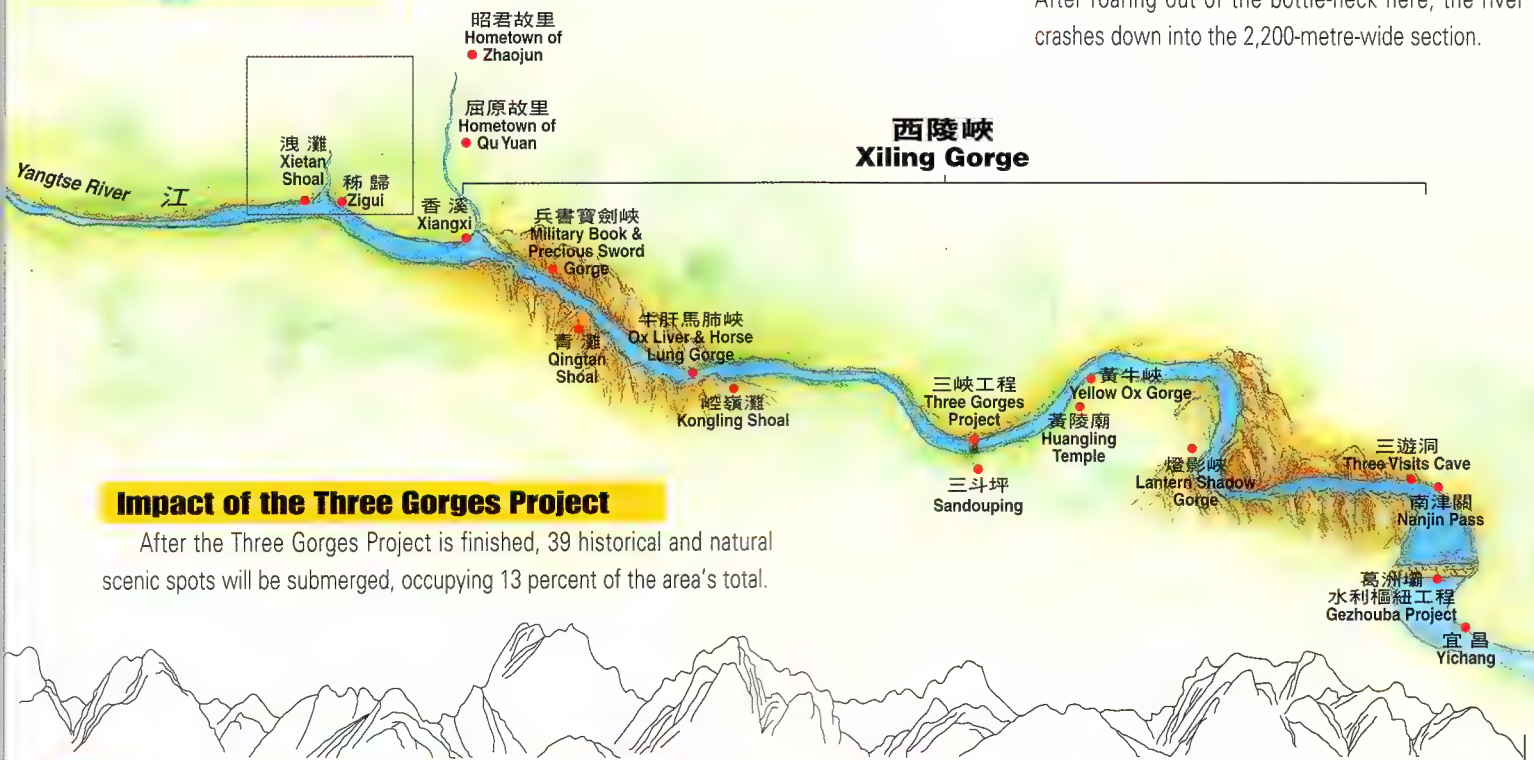






Nanjin Pass

Nanjin Pass on the northern bank at the entrance to the Xiling Gorge is considered the east gate of the Three Gorges, as is Kuimen Pass at the west end. After roaring out of the bottle-neck here, the river crashes down into the 2,200-metre-wide section.

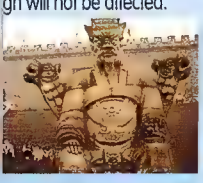


Impact of the Three Gorges Project

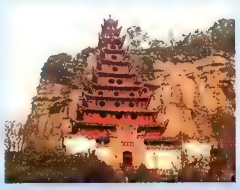
After the Three Gorges Project is finished, 39 historical and natural scenic spots will be submerged, occupying 13 percent of the area's total.

Fengdu

hen the water level reaches 5 metres, the gate of the host City at 155 metres high ill be submerged, but the all of Hell at 288 metres gh will not be affected.



Stone Treasure Villa



The gate of Stone Treasure Villa at 173.5 metres will be 1.5 metres under water, but the villa will remain. The Yuyin Hill will become an isle.

Baidi City

Baidi City located on the Baidi Hill will be surrounded by water on all four sides, as the lower part of the hill will be submerged.



Lesser Three Gorges



During the rainy season, the water levels in Bawu and Longmen gorges will rise 15-35 and 60 metres respectively, but Dicui Gorge will not be affected.

Shennong Stream

When the water level rises to 135 metres, the Shennong Stream will flow upstream. The 20-kilometre drifting course on the river will no longer exist.



Other Spots

When the water level reaches 175 metres, the water in Qutang and Wuxia gorges will rise 80 metres. Some of the scenic spots, such as the Chalk Wall, Mengliang Staircase and the ancient plank way, will be submerged.

(Source of reference: Chongqing Tourism Bureau)



CULTURE

Engraved Fish in Fuling

Photos by Yun Feng
Article by Ma Liang

The name of Fuling is most often associated with the Hot Pickled Mustard Tuber known both in China and abroad. Yet Fuling also has rare and ancient cultural relics — the famous 1,000-year-old fish engravings on Baihe (White Crane) Ridge on the southern bank of the Yangtse River. Fuling, now a district within the municipality of Chongqing, sits at the point where the Wujiang River empties into the Yangtse. It was the ancient capital of the State of Ba as early as in the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.).

White Crane Ridge, lying in the Yangtse River in the western part of Fuling, is a fascinating piece of Chinese culture. There is a long legend about its name: in the Northern Wei Period (386-534), a Taoist monk named Erzhu Zhenren visited Chengdu. He behaved erratically, throwing white stones into the Tuojiang River. Later in Hezhou he sold elixirs on the street at the price of 120,000 taels each. The prefect of Hezhou was greedy for a long life and spared no expense in searching for such a pill. Erzhu Zhenren demanded 1.2 million taels for each elixir from the prefect, who was believed to be rich. The prefect was enraged and had the monk put in a bamboo cage and thrown into the Tuojiang River. The cage drifted along the river into the Yangtse. When it was close to Fuling it was blocked by a huge white rock in the river. The monk was rescued by a fisherman. As soon as he woke up, he begged some wine and drank his fill. Then, all of a sudden, a white crane appeared and the monk climbed onto its back and flew away. So, the white rock was called "White Crane Ridge" ever since.





White Crane Ridge is a natural sandstone about 1,600 metres long. It has become famous not for its beautiful legend, but for the ancient fish and inscriptions carved into its surface. The earliest one is a line-engraved fish from the year 763 of the Tang Dynasty. Unfortunately, the weather and water have taken their toll and some of the engravings are no longer distinct.

Engravings and Inscriptions Span Many Dynasties

There are altogether 163 inscriptions and 14 fish engravings carved since the Tang Dynasty. The verified inscribers, according to researchers, amount to over 100, many of them being well-known calligraphers of various dynasties. Huang Tingjian, an eminent writer and calligrapher of the Song Dynasty (960-1279), for example, carved seven characters recording his visit to the site in 1100. Today, the inscription



remains distinctly clear though it has been soaked for 899 years.

Most of the fish, in various sizes and shapes, are line-engravings, but some are done in relief. In the upper section of the Tang-dynasty engravings are two unusual fish. With 36 scales on each body, they appear swimming upstream, one following the other. The first has a lotus flower in its mouth while the rear one has *lingzhi* (glossy ganoderma) in its mouth. Beside them are a *dou* (a unit of dry measure for grain) and a steelyard.

The Artful Purpose of the Engravings

The ancients engraved these fish and inscriptions on White Crane Ridge, but at locations most often hidden in water. If they were not purely pieces of art, what was their true purpose? Actually it was to mark the changes in the water level of the Yangtse River at Fuling. One hundred and eight of the 163 inscriptions and the 14 engraved fish were data on low water in 72 separate years since the beginning of the Tang Dynasty. In a year of severe drought, when the river water dropped to a certain low level, a fish was engraved on the rock ridge together with an inscription such as "Water dropped to here" or "The water dropped to five feet below the fish". The rest are poems written by men of letters.

Appearing Only in Dry Season

The fish engravings and inscriptions at the lower section of White Crane Ridge rarely show themselves. One inscription explains: "In the dry season, if the fish engravings emerge, it will be a bumper harvest. It happened like this over 1,000 years." Thus when such a rare chance came, people converged from all directions to the ridge. Some of them marked down the water level, some wrote poems of their emotions and others meditated on the past. Some visitors would clean an area of the rock and ask a stonemason to inscribe their poems. As time went by, White Crane Ridge gradually became an "exhibition hall" for hydrology, rock engraving, calligraphy and literature.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru



Tips for the Traveller



Transport:

Go to Fuling by boat or bus from Chongqing, then walk about 10 minutes to White Crane Ridge.

Time:

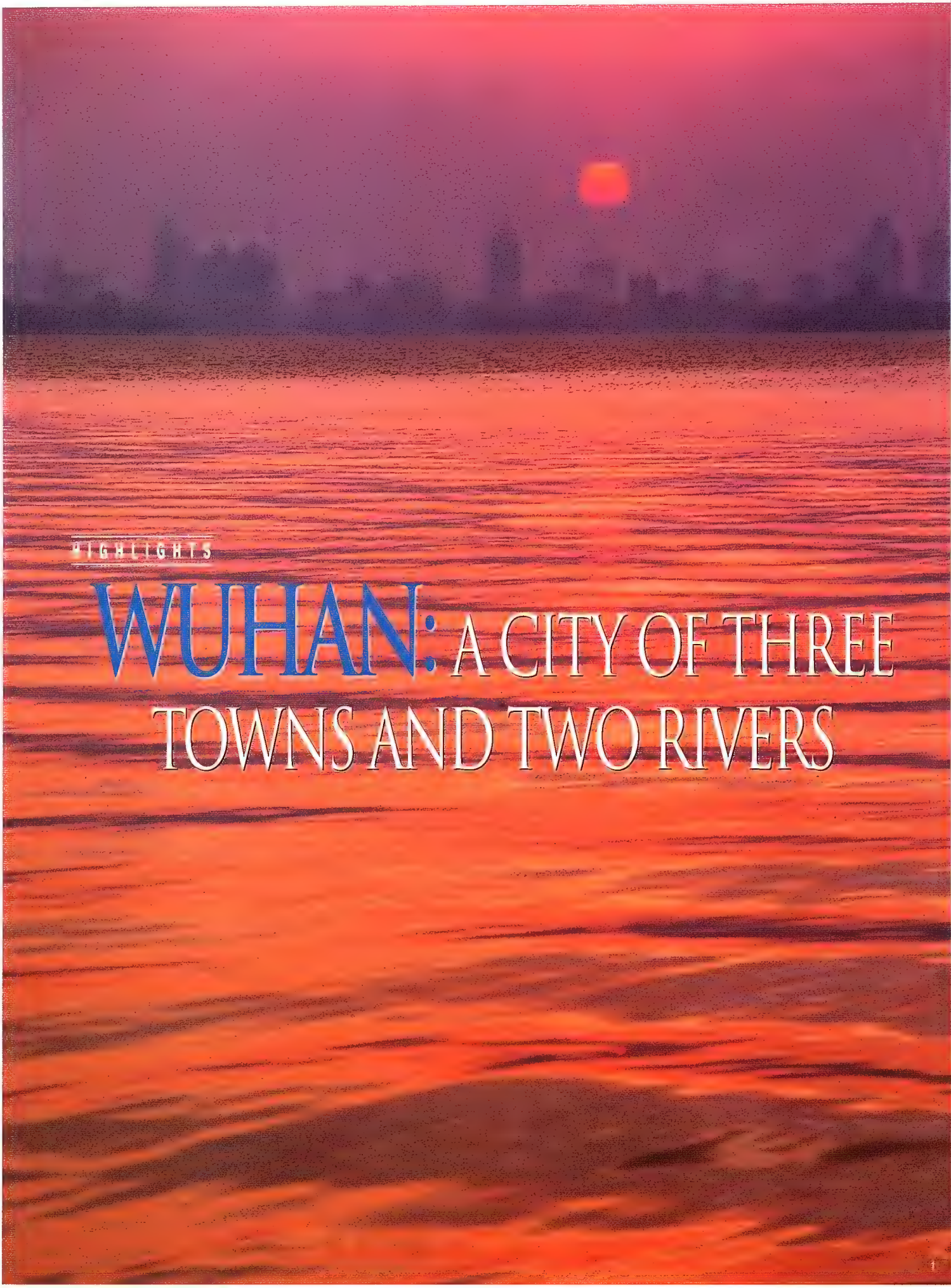
White Crane Ridge reveals itself in the low water seasons of winter and spring, and the fish engravings and inscriptions emerge only at the lowest water levels.

Notes:

When the Three Gorges Reservoir is completed, White Crane Ridge will stay submerged forever, but an underwater museum may be built there.

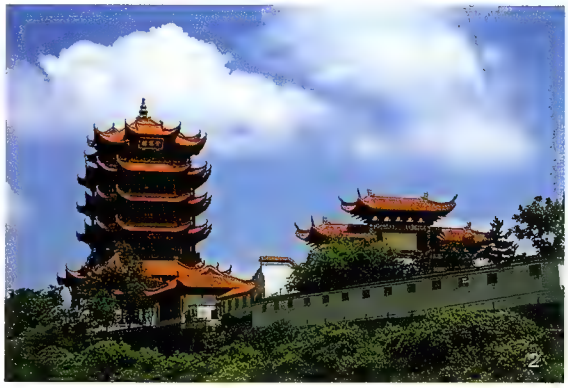
1. The fish engravings and some of the inscriptions are records of water levels of the Yangtse River.
2. A fish with glossy ganoderma in its mouth
3. The rarely witnessed characters, "White Crane Ridge"
4. The eminent Northern Song-dynasty writer Huang Tingjian, a good friend of the poet Su Dongpo, left an excellent calligraphic work at White Crane Ridge.
5. When the fish engravings are exposed, visitors flock to the site.
6. White Crane Ridge thoroughly exposes its one-kilometre length in a severe drought.





HIGHLIGHTS

WUHAN: A CITY OF THREE TOWNS AND TWO RIVERS



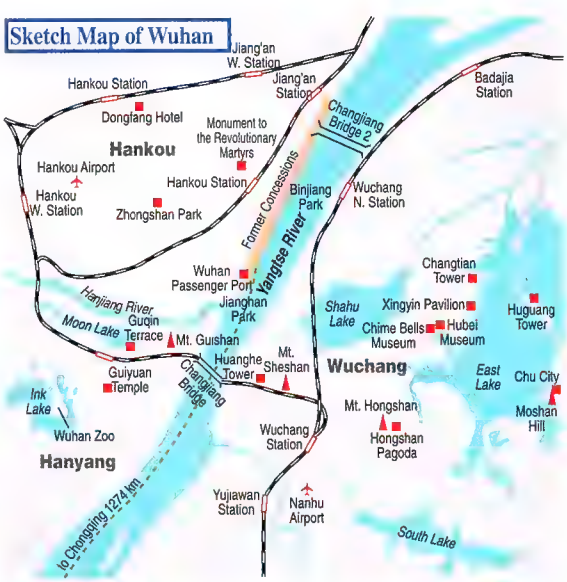
When people talk about Wuhan, they naturally think of it as the "two rivers and three towns", namely, the Yangtse and Hanshui and the towns of Wuchang, Hankou and Hanyang. Eulogized for centuries by men of letters, Wuhan is also a "land of lakes". East Lake is no doubt the most well-known.

Many old, Western-style buildings stretch three kilometres along the river bank, similar to Shanghai's Bund, though not quite as grand.

The ancient chime bells from the State of Chu, rare antiques of over 2,400 years old, were used as both sacrificial vessels and musical instruments. It is said that the bells can be used to play Beethoven's famous works.

Wuhan is also a city that takes care of its own. Food is number one, and here "guozao" (having breakfast) is something important to everybody.

1. The skyline of Wuhan viewed from East Lake (by You Xiang)
2. The famous Huanghe Tower (by Wu Zhijian)
3. Ships leave the more than 10 ports in Wuhan going upstream and downstream. (by Liu Yang)









EAST LAKE — RESPITE FROM THE HEAT

Article by You Xiang

Touring Wuhan in summer, there seems to be no way to escape the broiling heat, as Wuhan has long been known as the first of China's "four furnaces". Narrow streets and crowds add to the discomfort in downtown. Fortunately, the nearby Donghu (East) Lake, a vast expanse of clear water with relatively few visitors, is cool and comfortable. East Lake's area of 33 square kilometres is five times larger than Hangzhou's West Lake.

Nestled between the mountains and waters, on the lake's southern bank are several institutions of higher learning. Amidst trees on the eastern side are numerous sanatoriums. The northern bank, thick with reeds, has a number of fish-breeding ponds. And in the west are famous scenic spots, such as Xingyin (Poem-Chanting) Pavilion, Changtian Tower and Guanyu (Fish-Watching) Pool. Huguang (Lake Scenery) Pavilion is the best place to enjoy the beautiful scenery.

On top of Moshan Hill at the south end of the lake are ruins from the Three Kingdoms Period (220-280), believed to be where Liu Bei, King of the State of Shu, made sacrifices to heaven. A newly-built Chu City now stands there, with a wall extending into East Lake and two red stone gates, one on land and one in water.

Its market, running through an ancient-looking archway, is a quaint street of buildings with yellow walls and black-tiled roofs that resemble the folk houses in the water-logged areas of Hunan and Hubei provinces. Most shops sell embroideries, lacquer ware as well as paintings and calligraphy. On the second floor of one shop is a restaurant serving Chu-style dishes, such as Wuchang Fish and local bacon as well as a unique local delicacy made with local bacon and salted fish.

A gigantic stele carved with the full text of "Li Sao", the representative work of the famous Chu poet Qu Yuan of the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.), stands in the Chucai (Talents of Chu) Garden. The 18-metre-high stele inscribed with a text of over 2,000 characters is considered the number one of its kind in China.

The Chutiantai (Heavenly Terrace of Chu) on the mountain top houses an exhibition of Chu cultural relics and waxworks, and offers daily performances of chime bells and ancient music.

Tips for the Traveller

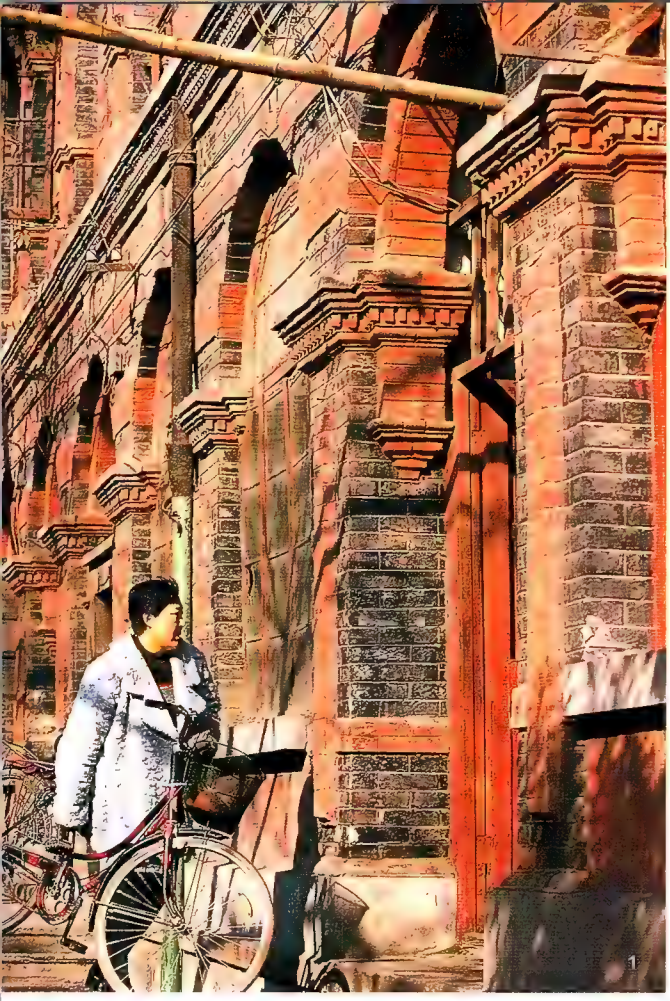
Entrance ticket: 30 yuan

Hubin Inn: 160 yuan and up for a standard room

Tingtao Pavilion (run by the East Lake Management Office): 100 yuan and up for a standard room

1. Moshan Hill and Chu City viewed from a helicopter (by Tong Hanfang)
2. The vast and tranquil Donghu Lake (by He Ren)
3. Dozens of sculptures in the images of famous Chu figures are displayed in the Chu City. (by You Xiang)
4. Donghu Lake is where the people of Wuhan like to go during weekends or holidays. (by Tong Hanfang)







Arriving in Wuhan for the first time, I strolled along a street by the Yangtse River and found many solid rock buildings decorated with meticulously carved embossments in distinct foreign styles. The first one I saw was the Customs Office, a massive building still showing traces of its former splendor as the British Consulate. This stretch of three kilometres from the Customs Office building to Huangpu Street was conceded to Britain, France, Russia, Germany and Japan after the Eight-Powers Allied Forces invaded China over a century ago. So, tourists can witness both the splendor and disgrace of Wuhan's history here.

WESTERN-STYLE BUILDINGS IN WUHAN

Photos & article by Li Zhixiong

Starting from the former British concession on Jianghan Road, one European-style building follows another. As a rule, all the buildings facing the street are magnificent and imposing; most have become offices for banks and big companies or department stores. The lower yet still elegant houses on the side streets, with shuttered windows and carved doors, have become residences for common folks. Along the river at No. 168 Yanjiang (Riverside) Avenue I found a Russian-style hotel in the former Russian Consulate. In an unique elegant style, it charges only 140 yuan for a standard room. The former Japanese Consulate has become the Huishen Hotel, while the former German Consulate now houses the Wuhan municipal government.

What appealed to me most was visiting the folks of the residential buildings, where I was always warmly welcomed and treated with tea. These ordinary people told me stories about their buildings, which helped me understand Wuhan's past and present.

No. 129 on Dongting Street used to be a restaurant in the German concession. Several elderly women were playing cards under the warm sun in front of the door. By the door was a signboard with four artistic characters, meaning "Maya Bar". The owner, 30-year-old Mr. Yu Wen told me that, before his family moved in 20 years ago, the house was occupied by a senior general of the People's Liberation Army. During the government's housing reforms two years ago, Yu's family bought it for 190,000 yuan. Soon after, Yu Wen, who is fond of learning foreign languages and art, turned it into a comfortable bar which seemed to do good business.

Tips for the Traveller

Flights: There are scheduled flights to Wuhan from many major cities in China, including Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, Guangzhou and Hong Kong.

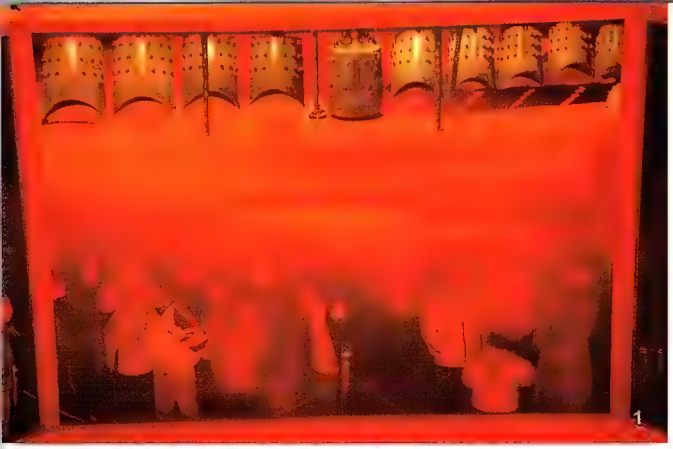
Train: Wuhan is a stop along the Beijing-Guangzhou Railway with trains departing daily in each direction.

Ships: Wuhan can be reached on ships coming from the direction of Chongqing/Yichang/Shashi in the west or Shanghai/Nanjing/Huangshi in the east.

1. A residential house located in the former French concession (by He Ren)
2. The former German Consulate now houses the city government.
3. Inside the Maya Bar
4. Some of the big houses on the main streets have been turned to restaurants and entertainment centres.









CHIME BELLS: MILLENIUM-OLD CHU MUSIC

Photos & article by You Xiang

The newly constructed Chime Bells Museum at the Hubei Provincial Museum, close to the East Lake, is very eye-catching with its black-tiled roofs and red walls of typical Chu-style architecture. Displayed in the museum are the 65 bells unearthed from the Tomb of King Zeng Houyi of 2,400 years ago. They are hung in three rows on a rack over three metres high and 10 metres long. The museum is open daily and an entrance ticket costs 30 yuan.

King Zeng's tomb was found by some PLA soldiers in a quarry in September 1977. This discovery, which brought to light a complete set of chime bells that had slept underground for thousands of years, created quite a stir at the time. It immediately drew musicians, character experts and archeologists to a joint study. Most surprising was the essay on music carved on the bells, which, running 2,800 characters long, is accurately a treatise on tonality.

Amazingly, not only are these bells are in good condition, but every one can produce two tones. Due to its different thicknesses, the bell can give two harmonious sounds simultaneously when struck at different places. The chime bells have a wide register, covering over five octaves and 22 semi-tones, and its scale is as complete as the seven-sound scale of C major nowadays. So these bells not only produce beautiful sounds, but can also adapt to any ancient or current musical works, Chinese or foreign.

Even as the archeologists were doing their excavation, plans to produce duplicates of the bells were being developed. In 1983, the bells were successfully duplicated for the first time. After years of study, the experts finally understood the bells' composition, structure and sound change character. The imitations are as good as the excavated ones in appearance, timbre and frequency. Consequently, a unique chime bells orchestra now gives performances at the museum.

1. The chime bells excavated from a 2,400-year-old tomb
2. Beautiful music can be played on this duplicate set of chime bells.
3. Chime bells made in various sizes are favourite souvenirs for tourists.
4. Enjoying breakfast at a roadside restaurant (by Yan Hong)
5. Thin bean-curd skin with stuff wrapped in, a famous Wuhan snack (by He Ren)
6. A special service — stuffed buns served in a strip (by He Ren)



BREAKFAST AND SNACKS OF WUHAN

Article by You Xiang

People in Wuhan frequently use the term "guozao" in their exchange of greetings in the morning. If somebody says, "Did you *guozao*? Let's go," it means an invitation to breakfast. As there are many varieties of snacks for breakfast, *guozao* is also referred to snacks.

Laotongcheng, a restaurant at the crossing of Dazhi Road and Zhongshan Avenue in Hankou produces the most famous snacks for breakfast. In the Zhongshan Avenue area, there are many other restaurants famous for their breakfast, each having its own speciality, such as the *tangbao* (steamed dumplings) in Sijigeng, *reganmian* (hot and dry noodles) in Cailinji, Islamic snacks in Donglaishun, *tangyuan* (glutinous rice flour dumplings served in soup) in Wufangzhai, *jiaozi* (meat and vegetable dumplings) in Tanyanji, *tangfen* (bean noodles in soup) in Shunxiangju, and *mianwo* (wheaten cakes) in Xierongde.

It will be a pity to be unable to taste Wuhan's famous snacks but it would be difficult for anyone to taste them all. From seven to nine in the morning, the shops and restaurants selling snacks are overflowing and tables are set outside on the sidewalks.

In Wuhan, the most common breakfast snack is hot and dry noodles, the best of which being made in Cailinji. It is said that many years ago, an unknown chef in the restaurant boiled too many noodles one evening and failed to sell them all. Fearing the restaurant would lose money, he mixed the noodles with sesame oil and then cooled and dried them. The next day, he reheated the noodles, mixed them with sesame paste, hot and pickled turnip and mustard tuber dices and served them to the customers. Unexpectedly, they became a hit.

Another famous local delicacy is *sanxian doupi* (three-taste thin bean-curd sheets) in Laotongcheng. Delicious and beautifully presented, it is also inexpensive at only two yuan per plateful.

Behind the Laotongcheng Restaurant is Jiqing Street, Wuhan's famous night market for local delicacies. The market opens around 8 to 9 p.m. and closes early the next day. People also earn money there by singing and selling flowers.

Translated by Li Zhenguo



5

Major Snack Restaurants

Laotongcheng (Known as "King of Thin Bean-Curd Sheets")
Add: 1 Dazhi Road, Hankou Tel: (27) 8283 1562

Dazhonghua
Add: 196 Pengliuyang Road, Wuchang Tel: (27) 8807 4924

Wufangzhai
Add: 723 Zhongshan Avenue, Jiang'an District
Tel: (27) 8283 3234



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Chongqing Summer Escapes

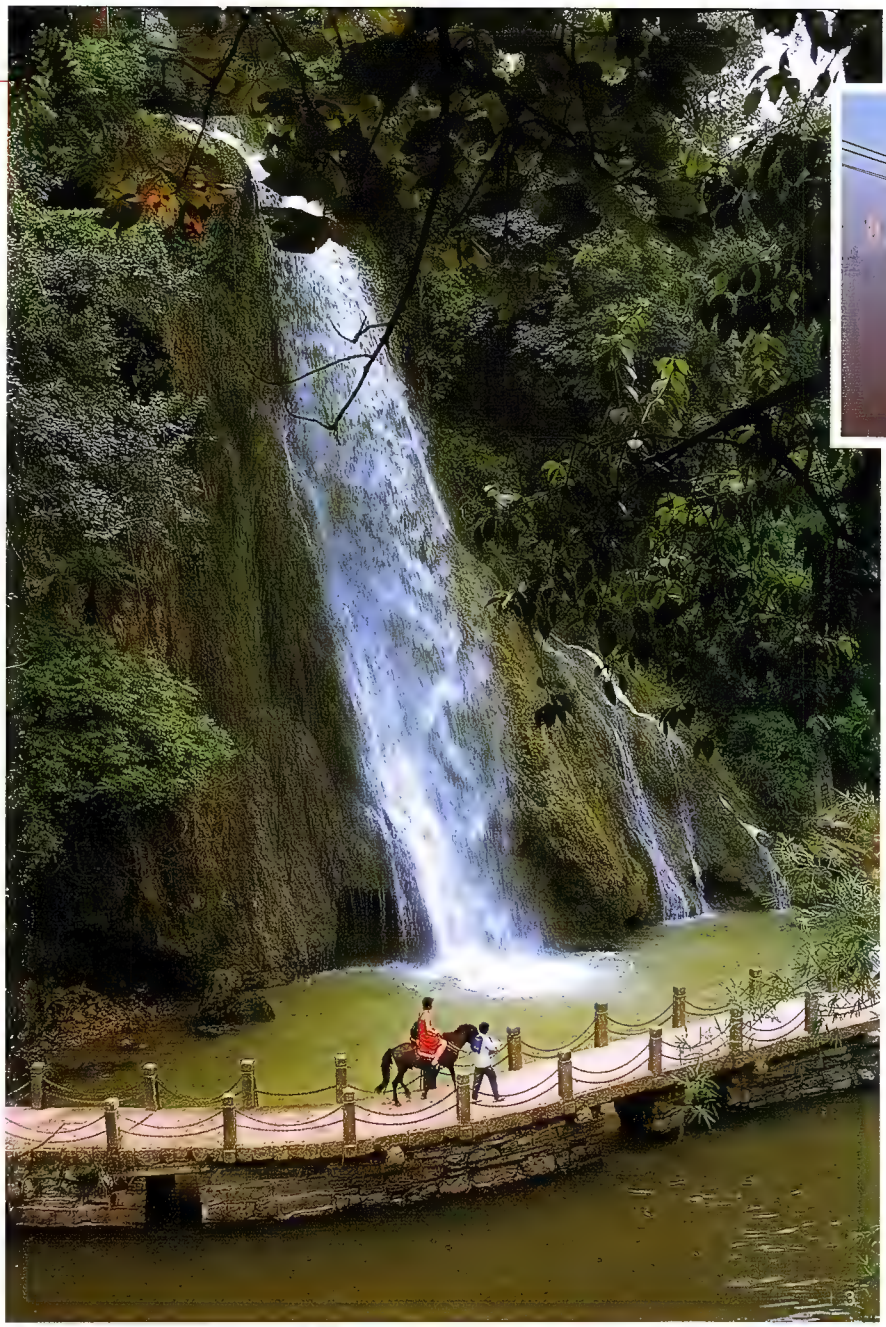
Photos & article by Xiaogang

Cruises upstream on the Yangtse River through the Three Gorges will bring you to Chongqing.

Long known as one of China's "furnaces", Chongqing's most unbearable, hot and muggy weather occurs in July and August. Some local residents "fight heat with heat". They make themselves sweat by eating spicy delicacies in hot pot restaurants, so they can feel the relatively cool air upon leaving. Others sneak into the hot spring valleys in the suburbs to cool off.

Among the many hot springs in Chongqing's suburbs, the South Hot Springs, North Hot Springs and Tongjng Gorge Hot Springs are most well-known. The hot spring valleys between sheer mountains are densely wooded, providing an entirely different cool world.





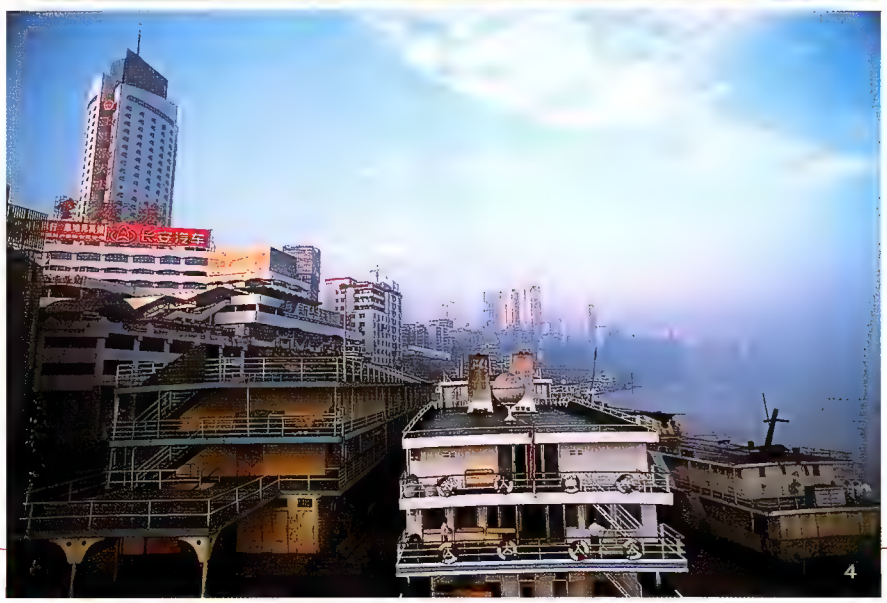


South Hot Springs

This hot spring park is closest to the city proper. It has a hot spring swimming pool and several hot spring sites where the water maintains a 40°C temperature. The smell of sulphur is strong while boating on the Huaxi Stream at the entrance of the valley and cruising around the hot spring park. A unique waterfall of hot spring waters cascades from a sheer cliff. After boating and hot spring bathing, you may wish to take the cable car to reach the top of the peak, from where it is fun to slowly slide down the mountain on a land sled.

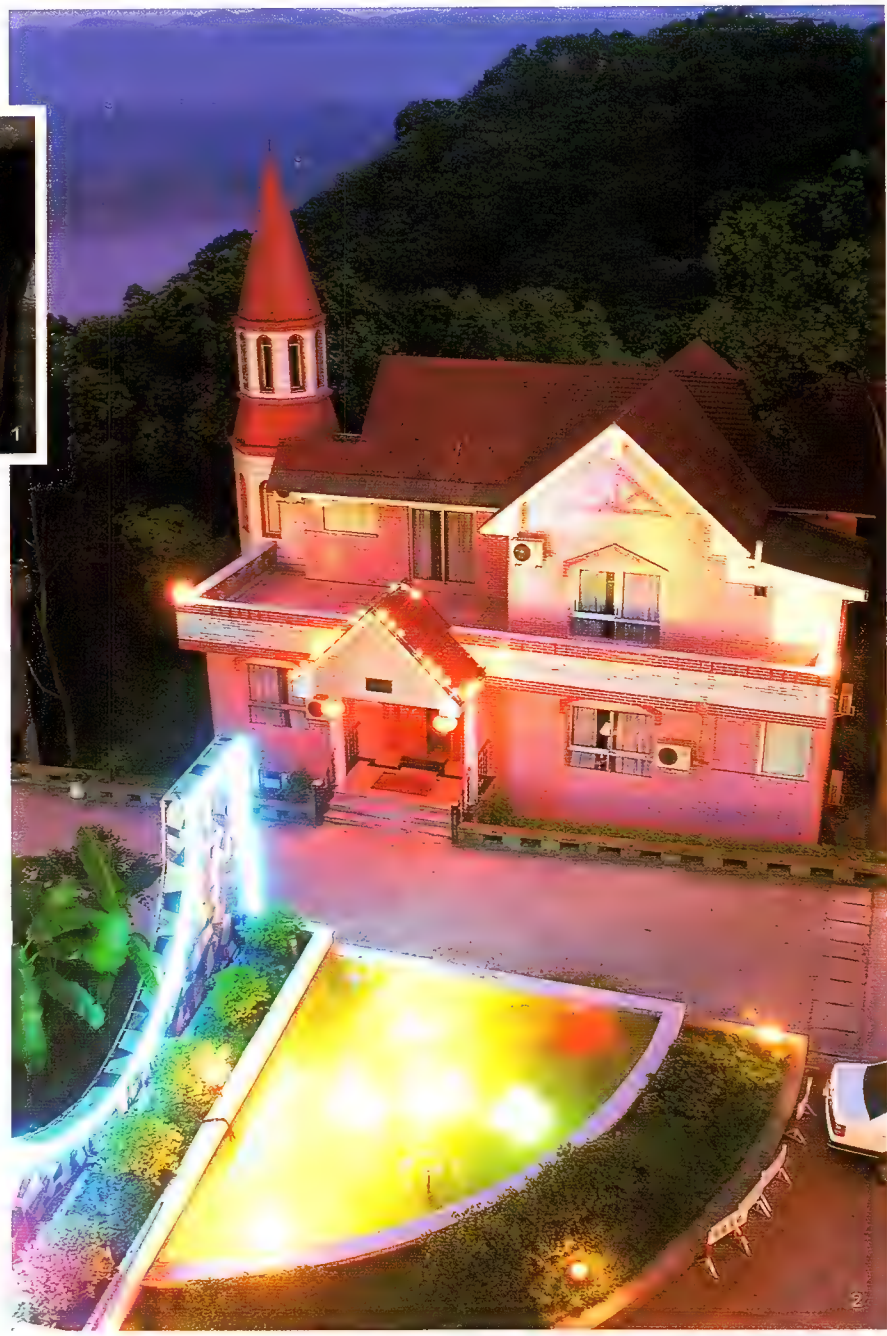
To get to South Hot Springs from downtown Chongqing, take a half-hour ride on bus No. 502 at Wuyi Road, to Nanquan Town. From Daomenkou, take bus No. 586 and Linjiangmen, bus No. 602.





1. The city's sea of lights (by Guanghui)
2. Eating a Chongqing-style hotpot
3. The famous "Hot Spring Waterfall"
4. Most luxury leisure ships set out from Chaotianmen Wharf in Chongqing.
5. The summer's muggy climate is hard to endure. (by Guanghui)





North Hot Springs

The North Hot Springs in Jinyun Mountain are a little over an hour from the city proper by bus. Reputed as the Lesser Mount Emei, Jinyun is a great summer escape with its nine peaks, cool temperature, ideal vegetation and a highway leading right to it. In addition, it also offers lovely sunrise and sea-of-clouds views.

Go through the Southern-dynasty Jinyun Temple, across Dai Lake on a bamboo raft, through a bamboo grove and you will discover North Hot Springs Park on the Jialing River. It was developed over 70 years ago by Lu Zuofu, an entrepreneur, on the former Hot Spring Temple's grounds. Spread out on the mountain slope, the park is dotted with pavilions, houses and towers under the shade of ancient trees or bamboo. The old stone tablets and pagodas are also attractions. The low alkaline spring water remains at 35-37°C. The warm current of the hot springs will massage away your fatigue.

You may feel a sense of mystery while walking through the woods in this tranquil valley shrouded in mists. From the cliff side, there is a marvellous view of the European-style villas with pointed red brick roofs.

To go to North Hot Springs Park, take an air-conditioned coach from Chongqing Hotel to Beibei and change to bus No. 270, or take the long-distance bus destined for Hechuan from Chongqing. Beibei, where the park is located, was once the "temporary office of the temporary capital" during the war years, but is today the "backyard garden of Chongqing". Jinyun Mountain, the Lesser Three Gorges on the Jialing River and the Fishing Town of Hechuan are famous scenic sites within a national nature reserve with superb vegetation. The Land Crack and Golden Sword Valley on Huaying Mountain north of Chongqing is another interesting site.



1. Bathing in the pond fed by a hot spring waterfall
2. European-style villas have been built in the North Hot Springs Park.
3. A teahouse in Jinyun Mountain Holiday Village
4. North Hot Springs Park on the bank of the Jialing River
5. Stylish villas in the holiday village on Jinyun Mountain







Tongjing Gorge

These gorges, Wentang, Tongjing and Laoying, are commonly called the Lesser Three Gorges of Northern Chongqing. The cliffs here rise abruptly and the banks are covered under bamboo groves, trees and bushes. The resident rhesus monkeys are often seen by the hotel and on rooftops.

The most natural and quiet place is the newly opened Tongjing Gorge Hot Springs City. In this "city" are two hot spring ponds, one deep and one shallow, in which you can bathe under twinkling stars.

Hot springs water here is sulphuric, with calcium, between 50°C and 62°C. There are many caves in the gorges with the Houzi and Yangjia being the largest ones.

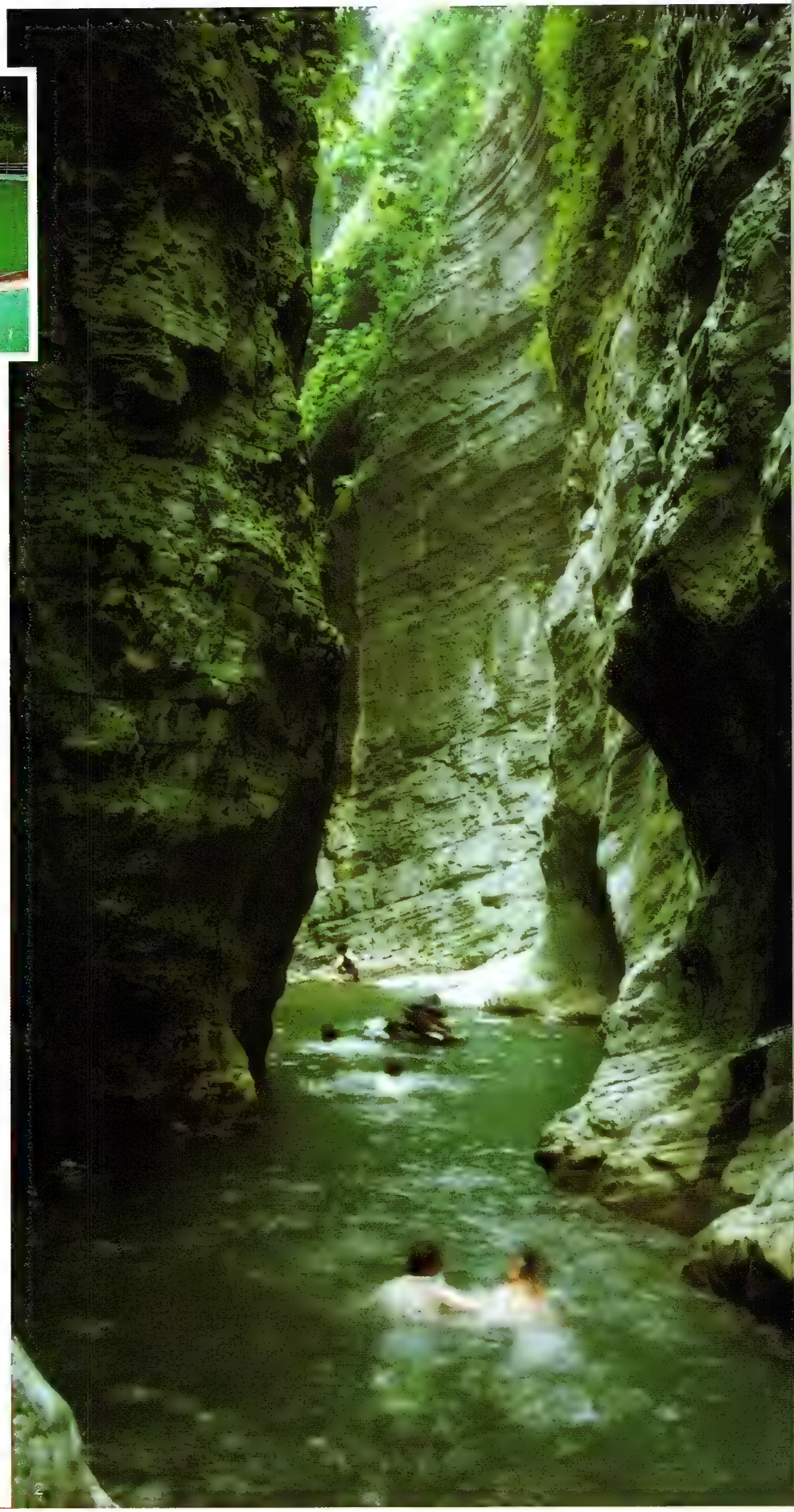
The Tongjing Hot Springs Park is an hour and half bus ride from Chongqing's northern bus terminal. Lianglu Town on the way attracts visitors with its Sichuan and Chongqing Folk Culture Village .

People who want more excitement and greater wilderness may go to the following spots in the outer suburbs.

Simian Mountain

Geologically, this mountain, surrounded by other mountains, is regarded as an "upside down" mountain. Its plentiful waterfalls form the most spectacular scenery in a scenic zone which covers an area of 240 square kilometres; a tour takes at least three days.

To reach Simian Mountain, take a long-distance bus either from Chongqing Bus Terminal or the Jiaochangkou bus stop. The distance to the mountain is 140 kilometres.







Golden Buddha Mountain

Jinfo (Golden Buddha) Mountain features rugged rocks and sheer peaks. Its remote location means it is seldom visited. This truly pure land with its rare animals and plants is a nature reserve under state protection. One-third of the total area of 1,300 square kilometres is primitive forest; 264 square kilometres are reserved for sightseeing. A cable car leads to the top.

To reach Jinfo Mountain, take a bus from Chongqing Bus Terminal and change in Nanchuan, or take a tourist train to Wanshengchang, then a bus.

Translated by F. Huang

Tips for the Traveller

Transport: There are direct flights to Chongqing from major cities in China including Hong Kong. Trains go from Chongqing to many cities. Passenger ships travel between Chongqing and Wuhan, via the Three Gorges

Lodging: There is an ample supply of star-rated hotels in Chongqing, such as the five-star Harbour Plaza and the four-star Holiday Inn Yangtse and Chongqing Guesthouse. Some two-star hotels are also well-located and nicely furnished.

Food: Chongqing boasts a long list of Sichuan-style dishes but they are even more spicy. The most famous is its hotpot.



1. An outdoor hot spring pool at Tongjing
2. The Jindao (Golden Sword) Gorge at Beibei (by Wang Hong)
3. Tongjing Gorge's rhesus monkeys
4. Fairy Mountain, in Beibei District

SELECTED TOURS



The Best Summer Vacation Tour Routes

For most people summer is the time for vacations and tours. From July to September in northern China, the conditions are usually fine weather with clear skies and lush vegetation. Summer is not particularly hot in the vast area of northern China and thus makes for a pleasant tour.

Here we recommend some of the best summer routes for a holiday of 12-25 days for independent travellers.

North Beijing Summer Tour Route

Beijing — Chengde — Weichang — Chifeng — Xilinhot — Beijing

about 12 days

Special Features: The Forbidden City, Great Wall and *siheyuan* (compound courtyard with houses on four sides) in Beijing; two summer resorts in Chengde and Weichang, one a traditional imperial garden and the other wild mountains and grassland; in Chifeng, the Bairin Obo and Dalai Nur scenic areas with various landscapes of mountains, forests, pastures, lakes and stone forests; various performances staged at the Nadam Fair on the Xilin Gol Grassland.

Itinerary: Start the tour in Beijing. After three days there, take a train or bus to Chengde. Visit Chengde for a day before taking a bus to Weichang. Stay there for two days. Then take a bus to Chifeng and change buses to Hexigten and the Bairin Obo Holiday Inn. Visit the area for two days, including the nearby Dalai Nur. Afterwards, take a bus to Xilinhot for another two-day visit. Mid-July is the time of the annual Nadam Fair on the Xilin Gol Grassland north of the city. Then fly back to Beijing and home.


Mulan Hunting Ground

Transport: There are many tourist trains and buses. For groups of four or more people, it may be more economical to hire a car or van.

Lodging and Food: It is simple to find places for lodging and food since there are plenty of hotels and hostels of various grades as well as Mongolian yurt hotels. Restaurants along the way serve Mongolian food.

Hulun Buir Grassland

about 15 days

Hulun Buir — Manzhouli — Hulun Nur — Jialai Nur — Zalantun — Zalong Crane Town — Harbin

Special Features: The most fertile grassland in China, Nadam Fair, well-preserved lakes, holiday inns in the Great Hinggan Mountains, and Zalong Red-crown Cranes Reserve.

Itinerary: From Beijing, fly to Hailar and visit the Oroqen Folk Village; then take a train to Manzhouli to visit this Sino-Russian port city and border market for two days; take a bus to Hulun Nur and Jalai Nur for another two days. Then return to Manzhouli and take a train to Zalantun City. Change to a bus to the summer resort and enjoy the forest scenes in the Great Hinggan Mountains for another two days. Continue on the train to Qiqihar and make a day-long visit to the Zalong Red-crown Crane Reserve in its suburbs. Summer is the time when there are the greatest numbers of cranes there. Then take a train to Harbin and visit the Tiger Garden and lodge at Yabuli Windmill Mountain Villa, staying for three days before flying home.

Transport: In Hailar, you need to hire a car or van to visit the grassland, lakes and Nadam Fair. Other scenic spots are close to towns which have public buses.

Lodging and Food: There are hotels and holiday inns of various grades and restaurants everywhere.


Hulun Buir

Landscape Tour in Northeast China

Harbin — Mudanjiang — Jingbo Lake — Changbai Mountain — Shenyang — Dalian

about 18 days

Special Features: This is an easy landscape tour. If connected with the Hulun Buir route, it would become a 30-day tour.

Itinerary: After a day or two in Harbin, enjoy the mountain coolness overnight at Yabuli Windmill Mountain Villa. Take a train to Mudanjiang for a day's visit, then continue on to Jingbo Lake to view the underground forest and limestone caves, and go swimming and rowing over two days. Take a train to Yanji to see the Korean Folk Village. Stay there overnight. Take a bus to Changbai Mountain and lodge at the mountain villa. Take a bus to Tianchi (Heavenly Lake) to see the waterfalls and underground forest, and have a hot springs bath. This will take two days. Go to Tonghua by train, then to Dandong by bus. On the way are Qingshan (Green Mountain) Lake and Tianqiao (Heavenly Bridge) Valley at Kuandian, both tranquil picturesque landscapes. Take an overnight ship from Dandong to Dalian, visiting Golden Stone Beach and Lushun Port, and tasting the seafood.



The Heavenly Lake on Mt. Changbai



Korean dishes, Yanbian

Transport: Since the trip is long, you need to plan it carefully. Taking the train saves time. In general, there is no need to hire a car or van. There are flights from many cities in China to Harbin.

Lodging and Food: It is simple to find both all along the route.

Hexi Corridor Route

about 16 days

Lanzhou — Wuqiao Range — Wuwei — Zhangye — Jiayuguan — Anxi — Dunhuang



Yugu custom: inviting their guests to drink by singing



Fruits and melons produced in the Hexi Corridor

Special Features: The Hexi Corridor section of the Silk Road, including the Great Wall, ancient castles, scenery of Qilian Mountains, and grottoes displaying Buddhist art such as the Mogao Grottoes.

Itinerary: Stay for a day in Lanzhou, visit the Yellow River, and Lanshan and White Pagoda Hill parks. On the way to Wuwei, cross Wuqiao Range to see the Great Wall and Maya Mountain. View ancient buildings in Wuwei and Great Wall Township. Next day, take a train to Zhangye to see Dafo (Big Buddha) Temple and possibly make a one-day farm visit in the suburbs. The villages have orchards of apples and pears that allow you to eat the fruits. Then go to the Qilian Mountains, 60 kilometres away, to see the Mati (Horse's Hoof) Temple Grottoes and stay at Lanhuaping Inn to enjoy the wilderness amidst snow-capped mountains. Continue by train to Jiayuguan to see the western end of the Great Wall. At Jiuquan, 30 kilometres from Jiayuguan, view some ancient architectures. Then take a bus to Anxi, famous for its watermelons and muskmelons, and historical sites such as Yulin Grottoes and the ancient border battlements. You need to hire a car or van to visit them. Two days later, take a bus to Dunhuang to visit the Humming Sand Dunes, Mogao Grottoes and the ruins at Yumen Pass.

Transport: Trains are the best way to travel between sights; buses are good if the distance is within 100 kilometres. Lanzhou can be reached by air and train; to go to Dunhuang by train, get off at Liuyuan for a bus.

Lodging and Food: Both are easy to find; many interesting snacks available.

Attention: Be prepared for the low temperature at night and the dry air.



Lanhuaping Inn, Zhangye

Northern Xinjiang Route

Urümqi — Altay — Kanas

about 15 days

Special Features: Vast grassland, wild mountains, Kanas Lake imbedded between the mountains, as well as Mongolian and Kazak folk lifestyles.

Itinerary: Fly to Urümqi and stay for three days to visit Tianshan Mountain, Tianchi Lake and Turpan. Then fly to Altay City and take a bus to Kanas Lake. An alternate route is to go to Karamay, visit Ghost Town and arrive at Habahe County over a two-day journey. From Habahe go to Kanas Lake. Stay for three days, then take two days to pass through Burqin and Fuyun to the Five-colour Bay. Afterwards, return to Urümqi via Qitai and Fukang.



A summer scene in the Altay Mountains

Transport: You must hire a car or van for most parts of your journey, since many scenic spots lie in wilderness where there are no regular buses. There are regular flights between Urümqi and major cities in China. There are 70-minute flights from Urümqi to Altay on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.



A Kazak restaurant

Lodging and Food: Some lodgings are very basic, but there are inns and hostels by Kanas Lake. Food is always easy to find. Small restaurants serve the staples, mutton and wheat breads.

Attention: Be prepared for cold weather.

Southern Xinjiang Route

Urümqi — Korla — Kuqa — Kashi — Hotan

about 12 days

Special Features: Landscapes of deserts, wild mountains and oases, as well as Uygur lifestyles.

Itinerary: Take a train from Urümqi to Korla, visit Bosten Lake and stay overnight. Go to Kuqa, visit the ancient town, beacon towers and Red Stone Gorge outside the town by hired car or van. Next day make the day-long trip to Kashi where you can visit the tomb of Imperial Concubine Xiangfei, mosques and markets. After a two-day stop, travel for a day to Hotan directly. In Hotan, taste summer fruits, visit the vineyard corridors in the oasis, carpet mill, Adli Silk shops, jade factory and markets over a couple of days. Then, pass by Minfeng and cross the Taklimakan Desert along the desert highway and return to Korla in a one-day journey. From Korla, return to Urümqi by train.

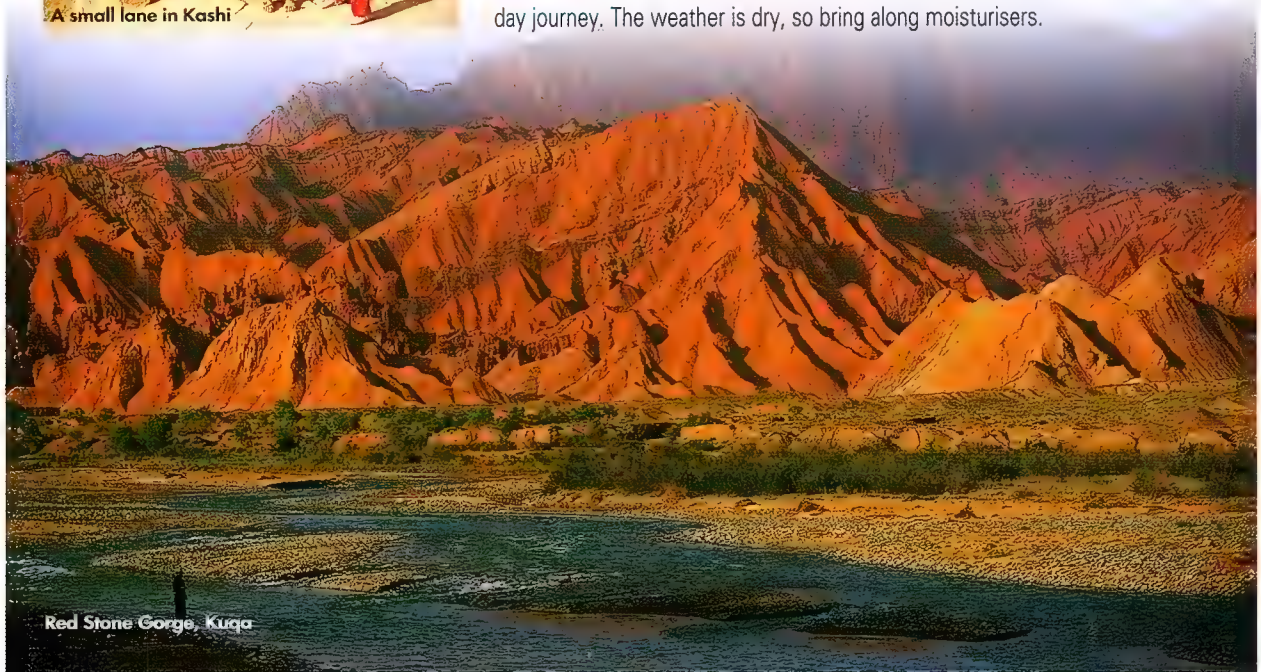


A small lane in Kashi

Transport: Rely on long-distance buses basically and hire a car or van when necessary. There are direct flights from Urümqi to Kashi, from where you can take a bus to Hotan, Minfeng and then cross the Taklimakan Desert to Korla, and return to Urümqi by train.

Lodging and Food: Both are simple to find along the way, but some people may have trouble getting accustomed to mutton.

Attention: Combining this trip with the Northern Xinjiang route would make it a 30-day journey. The weather is dry, so bring along moisturisers.



Red Stone Gorge, Kuqa

Qinghai and Tibet Route

Xining — Golmud — Kunlun Mountain Pass — Tanggula Mountain Pass — Nagqu — Lhasa — Xigazê — Himalayas — Nepal

about 25 days

Special Features: The beautiful scenery of plateaus and snow-capped mountains, Tibetan customs, and the mystical Tibetan Buddhist monasteries.

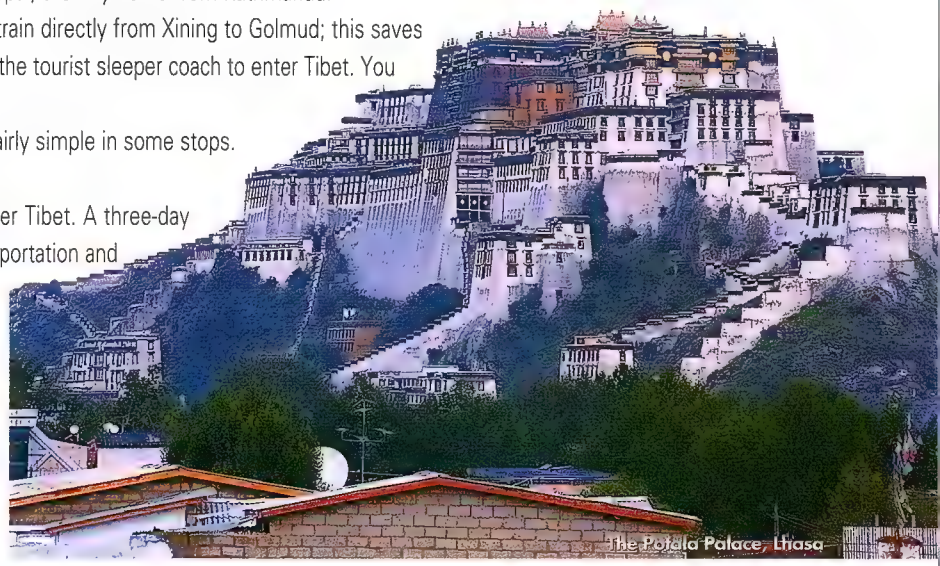
Itinerary: Fly into Xining and the next day take a bus to Qinghai Lake and visit Bird Island, staying overnight. Then go to Golmud and visit Qarhan Salt Lake, staying for two days. Take a bus to Kunlun Mountain Pass. Cross Tanggula Mountain Pass into Tibet and arrive at Nagqu for an overnight stay. Then go to Namco and stay a day by the lake in simple lodgings. Pass Damxung and Yangbajain hot spring to arrive in Lhasa and relax there for five days. Over the next two days, pass by Lake Yamzho Yum and Gyangzê to get to Xigazê to see the famous Tashilhunpo Monastery. Stay in the city for two days. Then pass by Sa'gya on your route to the foot of Qomolangma Peak. Two days later, go east, via Tingri, and cross the border at Zham into Nepal, then fly home from Kathmandu.

Transport: If you want to bypass Qinghai Lake, take a train directly from Xining to Golmud; this saves three days. You can hire a car or van in Golmud, or take the tourist sleeper coach to enter Tibet. You may need to hire a car or van in Tibet.

Lodging and Food: Be prepared for lodgings that are fairly simple in some stops.

Attention:

1. At Golmud, Hong Kong residents can register to enter Tibet. A three-day Lhasa tour, complete with guide, sleeper ticket, transportation and registration fee, can be arranged here for 1,380 yuan per person. Foreign visitors should get permission from the Tibetan Tourism Administration offices in Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an or Chengdu.
   Golmud branch of the International Travel Service:
   Tel: (979) 412764, (979) 413003.
2. Beware of altitude sickness and bring appropriate medicines with you.
3. The ultra-violet rays are very strong, so dress appropriately.



The Potala Palace, Lhasa

Gansu-Sichuan Grasslands and the Three Gorges Route

about 20 days

Lanzhou — Linxia — Xiahe — Maqu — Zoige — Jiuzhaigou and Huanglong — Chengdu — Chongqing — Three Gorges — Wuhan

Special Features: Plateau grasslands and valleys, the Yangtse Three Gorges.

Itinerary: From Lanzhou to Linxia, stop for a day to visit mosques, mansions with brick carvings. At Xiahe, visit Labrang Monastery and tour the Sangke Grassland for a day. Then, go to Maqu and tour the plateau by the Yellow River. Stay overnight. Continue on to Langmu Temple and nearby hills. Enter Sichuan the next day via Zoige and Hongyuan, both fertile grasslands; stay two days at Hongyuan. Take a one-day trip to Huanglong and Jiuzhaigou and stay two days before travelling one day to Chengdu. Stay in Chengdu for three days, then go to Leshan and Mount Emei for two days. From Chengdu take a train to Chongqing for a three-day stop in a hot springs resort outside the city. Then take a three-and-a-half day Yangtse River cruise through the Three Gorges and arrive at Wuhan for a two-day stay.





The Maqu Grassland

Transport: There are regular buses from Lanzhou to Linxia, Xiahe and Maqu every day. Take a long-distance bus or hire a car to go to Langmu Temple, Hongyuan and Jiuzhaigou. There are regular buses to Chengdu from Jiuzhaigou.

Lodging and Food: Except at some stops, both are quite good.

Attention: Maqu and Zoige are over 3,000 metres above sea level, so be prepared for altitude sickness and low temperature.

Translated by M.Q.


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NEW SCENIC SPOT

Jiuxiang

A Concert Held in an Underground Cave

Photos by Ge Baorong
Article by Li Zhixiong



Jiuxiang

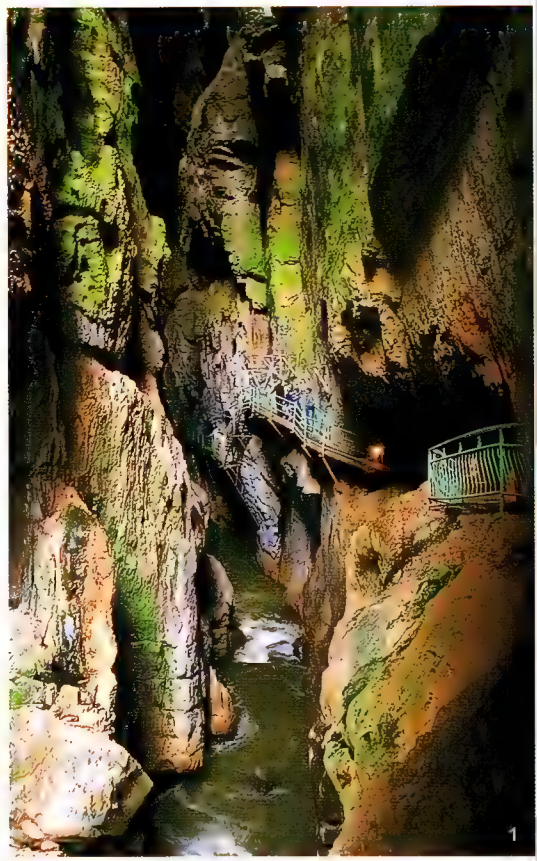
A Concert Held in an Underground Cave

Jiuxiang has long been known for its limestone caves and beautiful scenery. Recently, when I heard that Jiuxiang would host a concert in one of its caves, I hurried there in great excitement.

In the Grand Lion Hall, I found my seat and listened to Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* played by the Kunming Orchestra. The strong, deep sound of the French horn and the melodious tones from the string and woodwind instruments all mixed harmoniously to produce wonderful music enhanced by the echo effects of the cave walls and the dome. The strong ending of this symphony seemed to be symbolising the strong will of the Jiuxiang ape-men who had lived in this 100-metre-deep cave over 15,000 years ago.

The following piece was a Chinese violin concerto, *The Butterfly Lovers*. The violin told the love story while the music of the bass gave strong background support. The special effects of the limestone cave helped enhance the impact of the music.

Every New Year, Johann Strauss' works are performed in Vienna to great acclaim. A concert in this underground cave in Jiuxiang, however, is performed with unique and special effects, including the tinkling and bubbling of the water in the cave and singing of the birds outside.



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JIUXIANG: the Tour Guide



Jiuxiang Scenic Area, a major national scenic area, lies in Yiliang County, in the suburbs of Kunming, at the middle of the tourist route from Kunming to Stone Forest. Usually visitors first take a 20-minute boat tour of the 600-metre-long Yincui (Shaded Green) Gorge, also known as Lover's Gorge. Then you can follow a plank road to Jinghun (Frightening) Gorge, which is 100 metres deep with the narrowest place being only a few metres wide. The water in this gorge, coming from Yincui Gorge, creates a roaring sound.

Next, you can enter the "Cave Pierced by an Ancient River" which has two "stories" and measures 300 metres long. Lion Hall got its name from the stalactites shaped like lions at its entrance. This 15,000-square-metre cave houses the Jiuxiang Cave Museum which displays strange stones of Jiuxiang and objects of the ape-men and other exhibits. The admission is free.

Out of the Lion Hall, you can climb up a flight of stone steps to see the Palace of the Goddess, which is also a cave, but one without water. The cave has stalactites of various shapes. Going south from Lion Hall, descending via a steel ladder and crossing an iron bridge, you will come to Wolong (Sleeping Dragon) Cave, where the river enters the cave as a pair of 30-metre-high waterfalls, one male and the other female, as the local people describe.

Going 50 metres forward from the Waterfall Vista, you will see a scene unique of Jiuxiang — the Holy Fields, where the rocks look like terraced fields on mountain slopes. The largest piece, about 100 square metres, is probably the largest of its kind in the world. Passing the Xixiang (Washing Elephant) Pond, Mizhilin (Dense Woods) and Chieftain's Castle, you will enter the last cave — Bat Cave. In its rear section, you can view an upside-down scene of "Stone Forest" — the hanging stalactites look like trees growing downward from the ceiling.

Outside the Bat Cave is the terminal of the 400-metre-long cable way. It takes nine minutes to get back to the entrance of the scenic area. It requires three hours to cover the whole area.

Admission fee: 30 yuan per person, and 15 yuan per person for a cable car ticket.

Transport: Most travellers fly to Kunming, then change to a tourist bus or a minibus to go to Jiuxiang. The tourist bus stops at the front gate of Chayuan Hotel near the railway station; the fare is 30 yuan return. The minibus to Jiuxiang Scenic Area charges 6 yuan. Do not take the minibus which only arrives at Jiuxiang.

Accommodation: Jiuxiang Hotel charges 120-160 yuan for a standard room for individuals, and 60-80 yuan per person for groups.

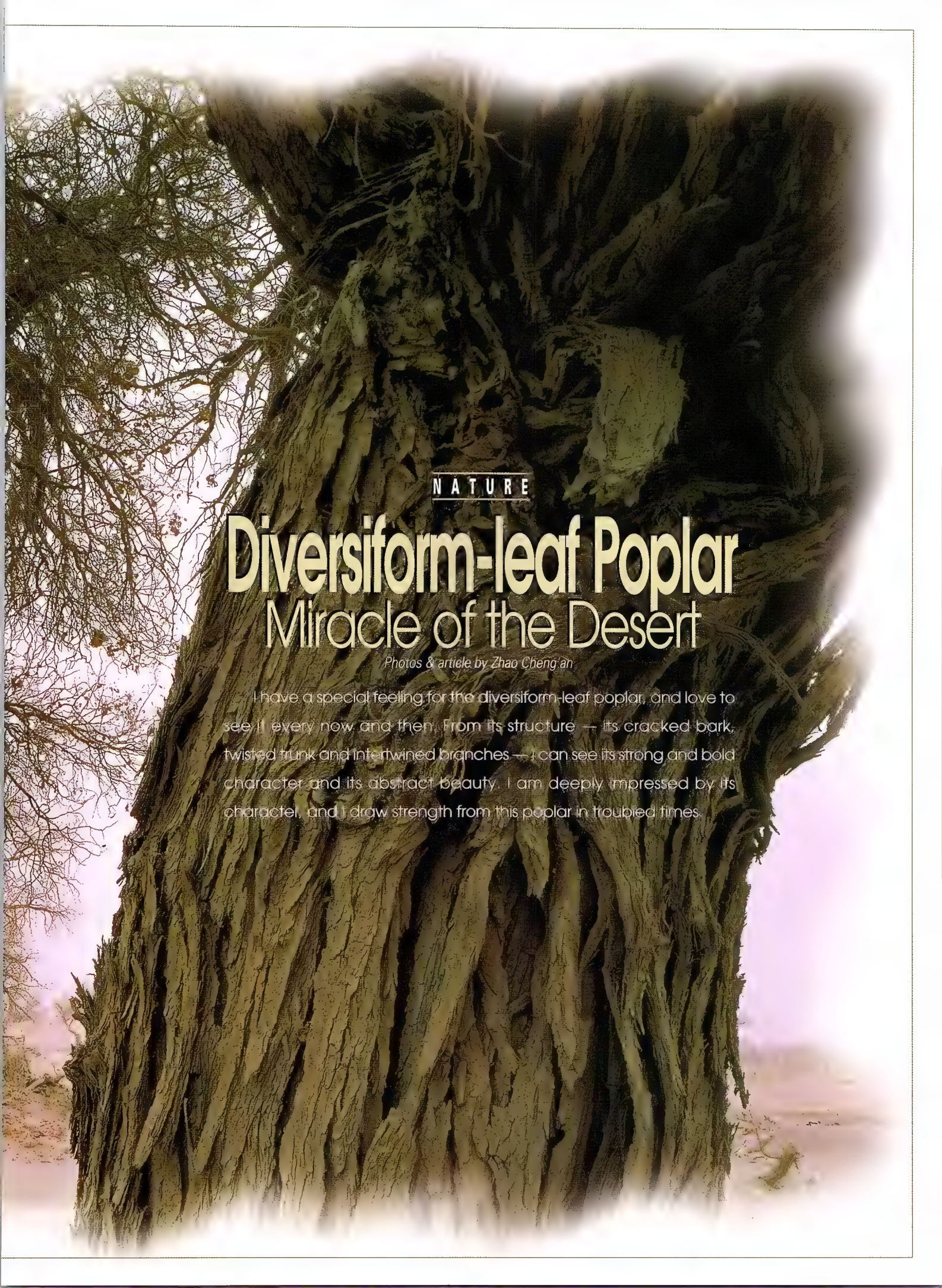
Translated by M. Q.

Previous page:
1. Touring Yincui Gorge by boat
2. Upside-down forest in Bat Cave
3. "Cave Pierced by an Ancient River"
4. A scene of the concert held in the Lion Hall (by Wang Miao)

This page
1. Following a plank way, you enter the Frightening Gorge. (by Wang Miao)
2. The fantastic Holy Fields (by Li Youxiang)
3. The male and female waterfalls in Wolong Cave (by Wang Miao)
4. The scenery of Jiuxiang
5. A performance of the local Yi people







NATURE

Diversiform-leaf Poplar
Miracle of the Desert

Photos & article by Zhao Cheng'an

I have a special feeling for the diversiform-leaf poplar, and love to see it every now and then. From its structure — its cracked bark, twisted trunk and intertwined branches — I can see its strong and bold character and its abstract beauty. I am deeply impressed by its character, and I draw strength from this poplar in troubled times.



A Green Great Wall on the Taklimakan Desert

The diversiform-leaf poplar can be regarded as a main one among all the sand-based plants. In October 1992, I flew by helicopter from Xayar County along the Tarim River. Golden yellow diversiform-leaf poplars extended far along both banks of the river, disappearing into the distant horizon. Statistics say there are 500,000 hectares of poplars in the whole Tarim Basin. In Weili and Luntai counties alone there are 380,000 hectares of poplars. This area has the largest concentration of poplars in the world. The diversiform-leaf poplar is one of the oldest poplar species. Fossils found in Kuqa, Xinjiang, indicate that the poplar belongs to the Tertiary Period of the Oligocene Epoch and has a history of 65 million years. Taklimakan Desert is now fringed with a long green belt of these poplars, which serves as a green "Great Wall" to hold back the drifting sand, and prevents soil erosion.

The Poplar's Three Cycles of 1,000 Years

Upon entering the poplar woods, the scene changes in a moment from a hot desert into a world full of cool fresh air. The most impressive is the poplar's great vitality. In the forest, there is always a thick layer of rotten branches and roots on the ground, which demonstrates the continuous moving scene — the death of the old and the growth of the new. The living ones, twisted, bent or in a prone position, are like soldiers intertwined on the battlefield. Even when they seem to fall on the ground, they struggle to raise their "heads". Their images reflect the very difficult conditions they live in. As they have not grown up straight, their grain is not straight either and is thus hard to cut.

Previous page: Diversiform-leaf poplar is a main species of plants in the desert.

1. **The autumn hue of a poplar grove in the Karamay area**
2. **Snow and frost cannot thwart the trees' strong will for survival.**
3. **A panoramic view of the diversiform-leaf poplar forests along the Tarim River**



The poplar's most amazing feature is its drought-resistant ability. It lives in the desert where the annual rainfall is only 100 to 289 millimetres but evaporation reaches 1,500 to 3,700 millimetres. It is a miracle of life!

The local people admire this poplar for its strong will to survive over 3,000 years, as the saying describes: "It grows for 1,000 years, stands erect after death for another 1,000 years, and remains without rotting after falling for another 1,000 years." Though no scientific data exists, the saying appears proved by the ruins of the ancient Loulan City. Though built 2,100 years ago, all the poplar beams, eaves and pillars of different thickness and length can still be seen. Some logs have such a big diameter that they need two people arm-to-arm to encircle them. Though the former Loulan Palace lies in ruins, the poplar wooden parts on the remaining half of the platform are still in perfect condition. It is hard to believe that they have been exposed to wind, rain and snow for 2,000 years.



Sixty Hours to Sprout and Take Root

The way that diversiform-leaf poplar reproduces is also a miracle. It is similar to that of the mangrove growing by the sea in tropical zones. The young seedlings of mangroves fall from the mother tree and float with sea waves. Once they settle on a muddy beach, they sprout and take root in only a few hours. Poplar trees produce their seeds every year in early summer. When the shells of the nuts crack, the seeds fall from the trees like snowflakes. After leaving the mother tree, the seeds have to search for places to survive. Those which are washed away by river water would stop wherever they catch hold on the land. Then they will finish the process of sprouting and taking root in only 60 hours. This is why poplars grow everywhere the Tarim River flows, especially during its flooding season, and why young poplars grow over a vast area.





Poplars and mangroves, though in very different locations and far from each other, really have similar unusual features.

The poplar has another method of reproduction: baby plants grow out of the old roots. So it is common to see middle-aged and young trees grow around old ones. A forest like this may probably have been formed by descendants of the same "clan".

One Tree, Three Kinds of Leaves

The diversiform-leaf poplar has another unique feature — it grows leaves of three different shapes on one tree. In its youth, its thin branches and leaves resemble those of the willow, but when it grows to a few metres tall, the leaves become broad like the leaves of poplars. When it is six to seven metres tall, the leaves on its upper section are typical big poplar leaves while those on its lower section are as thin as the willow's. The leaves in between are of their own shape, resembling neither the poplar or the willow. What a wonder!

Thus this poplar is also known as "changing-leaf poplar" and "varying-leaf poplar". This difference in the leaves is actually a way of survival. When there is plenty of water, poplar leaves would be big and round, but this is not always possible in the desert. To survive, the poplar grows thin leaves when it is young. After its roots reach the underground water, it grows bigger leaves to carry on more photosynthesis. Like other sand-based plants, while developing an elaborate root system and thick bark to increase the "in" and reduce the "out" of water, it also retains water in its roots and trunk for "emergency use". The drier the environment becomes, the more water it contains. If a tree is cut at it base, water would likely spurt out.

Translated by M.Q.

Tips for the Traveller

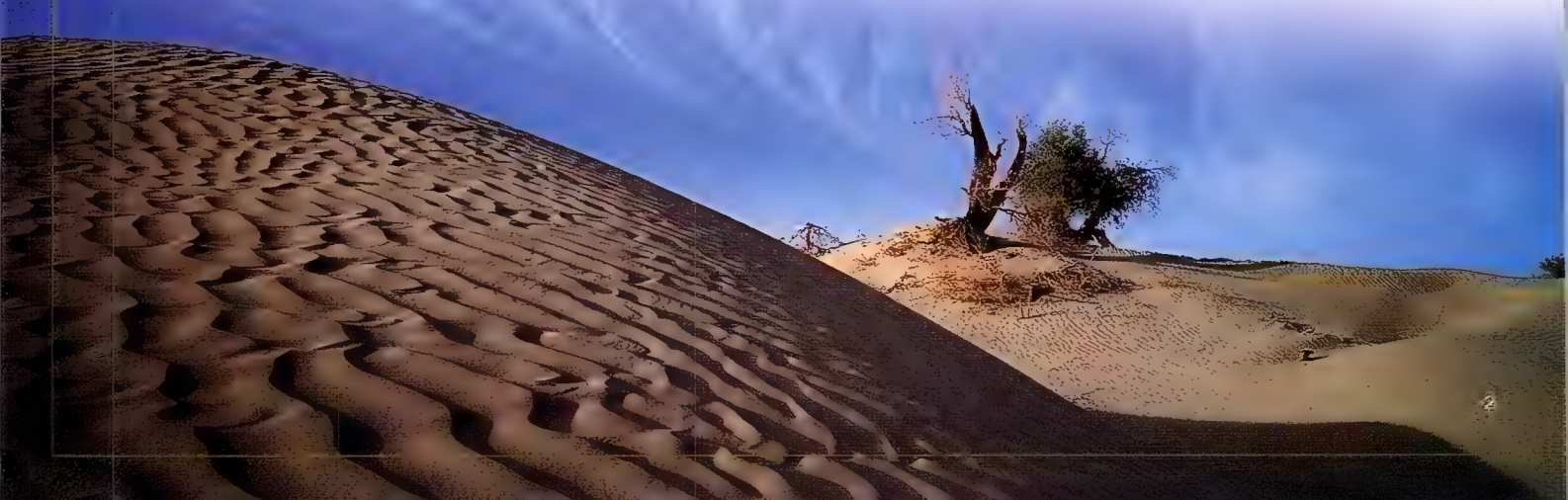
Places to see the diversiform-leaf poplars

The diversiform-leaf poplar groves mainly fringe the Taklimakan Desert in Xinjiang, and grow along the middle and lower reaches of the Tarim River, as well as on the banks of the Yarkant, Hotan and Keriya rivers. Driving along the ancient road on the east fringe of the Taklimakan or going along the Tarim River westwards from Xayar County, you can see the spectacular poplar woods. Sixty-eight kilometres from Luntai lie the most fabulous poplar woods. Take the bus to Luntai from Urümqi and then continue your journey from there.

In addition, there is a primal diversiform-leaf poplar woods at Urho Valley, about 110 kilometres from Karamay. There is no convenient transport to it. From Karamay you have to hire a car or van to go there, or join the tour organised by the Karamay Foreign Affairs Tourist Agency. (Tel: 990-223907)

There is a diversiform-leaf poplar grove at Ejin in Inner Mongolia. Take the train from Lanzhou to Zhangye in Gansu, and change to a bus, or hire a car or van from Zhangye. The best season is the first half of October.

1. Poplar trees growing in the desert in Qiemo County, Xinjiang
2. It needs a great vitality to survive in the desert.
3. The poplar trees stand as a green "Great Wall", which prevents the eastward movement of the desert.





Photos by Xiao Gang Article by Wu Sun

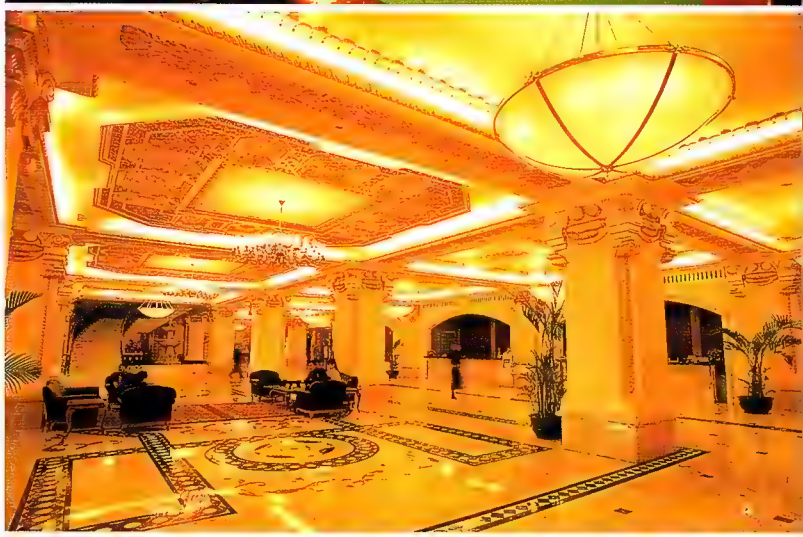


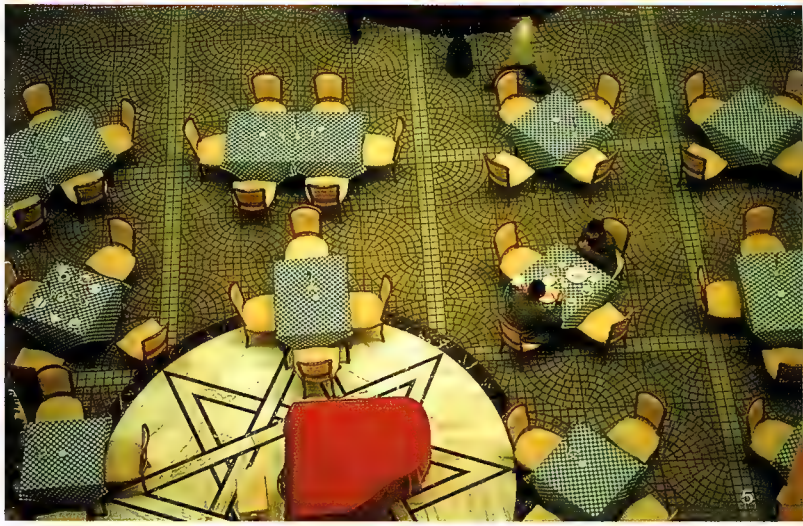
THE GOLDEN ORIENTAL HOTEL



1. The spacious Royal Garden of the hotel
2. A mural of classic European style
3. The billiard hall
4. The lobby that has been decorated in golden hues
5. A lounge for tea and snacks







Wuhan boasts superb docks for river boats, from where tourists board ships to go up the Yangtse River and visit the world-famous Three Gorges. In the three towns of Wuhan, there are also many interesting places worth visiting over a day or two.

The question is, where should you stay in Wuhan? If you are not averse to luxury or comfort, or if you are on an important business trip, consider the Oriental Hotel. On the left just out of the Hankou Railway Station, a magnificent "royal palace" shoots up by the square — the Oriental Hotel in the distinct style of continental Europe. Resembling an oblong fort, it appears tall, solid and grand. At the entrance are two sculpted statues — a hero and a beauty — in classic European style. Cast in night lights, the statues dazzle with a golden hue, highlighting the luxurious appearance of the "royal palace".

The extremely spacious lobby is decorated in gold. All the ceiling patterns, the columns, the four walls and the balustrades are covered with gold foil. A total 38 kilograms of 24K gold was used to produce foils for the auspicious birds mosaics and other motifs. The furniture and equipment in all the rooms are also a bright gold colour. It is most spectacular in the Oriental and Presidential suites, where all the sitting room furniture is golden yellow. So too are the toilet tissue rings, taps, door knobs and even the tea table legs.

The central lobby, named Royal Garden, is the pride of the hotel management. From outside it is hard to imagine such a grand indoor space. Meals are served there and at dinner time, a soft golden hue pervades the entire hall. Music or other performances enhance the cosy atmosphere. On the third floor is a restaurant called "Huangditing" (Emperor's Hall). Not taking into account its cuisine, its gilded furnishings and table ware convince visitors that it is true to its name.

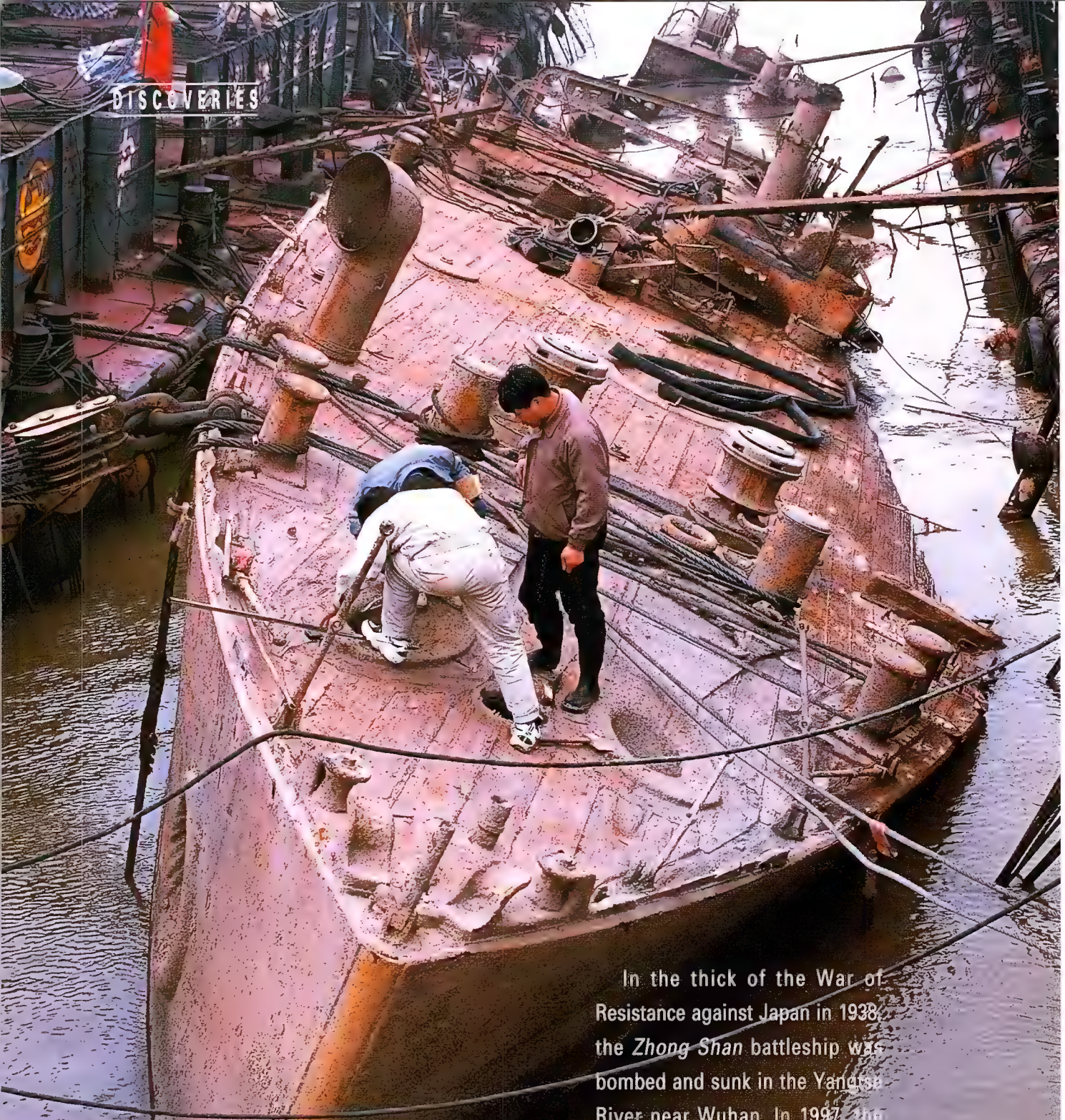
Moreover, it is only 12 kilometres to Tianhe International Airport and eight kilometres to the Yangtse River dock from the hotel. And the railway station is nearby.

Rates:

Single room: 408 yuan (including breakfast);

Standard room: 438 yuan (including breakfast for two).

(These discounted rates are offered until September 15, 1999.)



In the thick of the War of Resistance against Japan in 1938, the *Zhong Shan* battleship was bombed and sunk in the Yangtse River near Wuhan. In 1997, the wreck was salvaged and since then it has been receiving an all-round facelift in the Wuhan Shipyard. Soon this famous battleship will be open to visitors.

Photos by Zhou Guoqiang Article by Chou Ying

The Rise and Fall of the Zhong Shan





Revival of the Wounded Ship

When the salvage project began in November 1996, the ship, launched in 1912 for a distinguished 26-year service, had already lain on the bottom of the Yangtse for 58 years. The silt-laden water had reduced visibility to nearly zero and divers had to grope about to find the sunken ship.

Key to the Salvage: Finding a Survivor

The sunken ship could be brought to the surface only after the 2,000 tons of accumulated silt was removed. Divers first used air compressors to draw out the silt, and high-pressure air guns to get rid of the sand. After success with the upper deck cabins, the divers launched a desperate search for the entrance to the deck below, but to no avail. Hopes of finding the lower deck entrance appeared even more remote.

When the divers were at their wit's end, they contacted Zhang Songling, an 85-year-old Kunming resident. Zhang, who served as the *Zhong Shan*'s telecommunications officer, was one of the ship's few survivors during the air raid. Luckily, he knew the positions of the hatchways.

Towing the Sunken Ship with Cables

After all the silt had been removed from the ship, the salvagers began weaving a web of 20 cables beneath it to lift it out of water. It was relatively easy to thread the cables through the stern and bow. Unfortunately, the central part clung closely to the riverbed. One end of the ship needed to be lifted up, but this would risk tearing the wreck apart.



At 11:00 a.m., January 8, 1997, the *Zhong Shan* arose from its slumber of 58 years. Twelve hoists worked at one time to lift up the bow. Then one cable after another was slipped beneath the ship

Left: The *Zhong Shan*, brought to life once again, after 61 years

1. The hull at the bow remains largely intact.
2. The cabin on the upper deck (by Liu Yang)
3. The salvage of the *Zhong Shan* was undertaken by the Chongqing Rescue and Salvage Company.
4. The two Chinese characters, "Zhong Shan", have somewhat faded. (by Liu Yang)



and the problem was solved.

At 10:20 a.m., January 28, lifted by 20 steel cables, the bow of the *Zhong Shan* finally thrust through the surface of the Yangtse at a 45-degree angle. By 11:10 a.m., the salvage was completed.

An Early 20th-Century Product

Launched in June 1912, the *Zhong Shan* was an early 20th-century product of the same generation as the *Titanic*. However, the *Zhong Shan* was luckier, for it was in active service for 26 years before sinking, while the *Titanic* sank on its maiden voyage.

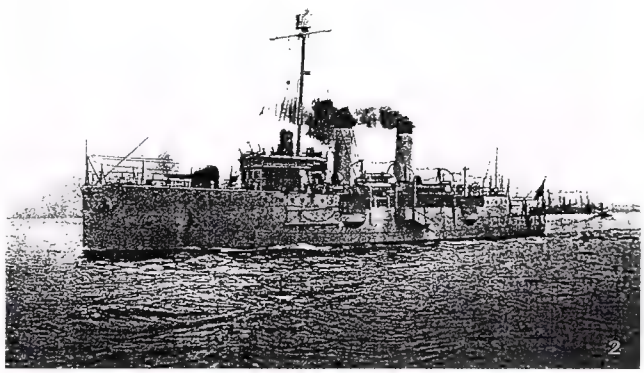
Destroyed by the Hand That Built It

Ironically, the *Zhong Shan*, which was destroyed by the Japanese, was built by the Japanese. During the later Qing-dynasty, China owned Asia's largest navy fleet with a total displacement of 85,000 tons, but it was destroyed by the Japanese navy during the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895. In 1898, the Empress Dowager Cixi returned political power to the young emperor Guangxu, who tried to rejuvenate the navy. His Reform Movement, however, failed and he was put under house arrest. Later, when the Eight-Power Allied Forces sacked Beijing, the emperor's ambition was completely dashed.

It was not until 1910 that the Qing government began rebuilding its fleet. The country that undertook to build the ships for China was none other than Japan, which had destroyed China's fleet 16 years earlier. And again, it was Japan who destroyed these ships in another aggressive war they launched against China.

An Order Almost Aborted

The Qing government ordered 50 battleships with a total displacement of 16,000 tons from Japan, to be delivered in seven years' time. It was a whopping investment of 160 million taels of silver. It is anyone's guess what its value would be today, but at the time it was one and a half times the Qing government's annual revenue.



2

On August 15, 1910, the Qing government signed contracts with Japan's Mitsubishi and Kawasaki shipyards. The *Zhong Shan* (at the time called the *Yong Feng*) was one of the ships on China's shopping list.

While the *Yong Feng* was under construction, great changes took place in China. The 1911 Revolution broke out in October, resulting in the downfall of the Qing Dynasty and the rise of the Republic. Often in tumultuous times inter-governmental agreements get scrapped, but Yuan Shikai, the man who usurped the presidency of the Republic, accepted all the Qing Dynasty's treaties and agreements with foreign countries, including the order for Japanese battleships. The *Yong Feng*, a posthumous child of the now defunct Qing Dynasty, was launched in June 1912, the first year of the Republic, but its delivery in Shanghai was six months late, because Yuan's government could not pay on time.



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1

Change of Name

On June 16, 1922, when the *Yong Feng* celebrated its 10th anniversary, the Guangdong warlord Chen Jiongming mounted a mutiny. He surrounded Dr. Sun's mansion, intending to kill him in the turmoil.

Refuge on the Ship

Dr. Sun Yat-sen escaped from his besieged mansion and boarded the *Yong Feng*, which then became Sun's presidential mansion and flagship of his revolutionary forces for protecting the Constitution.

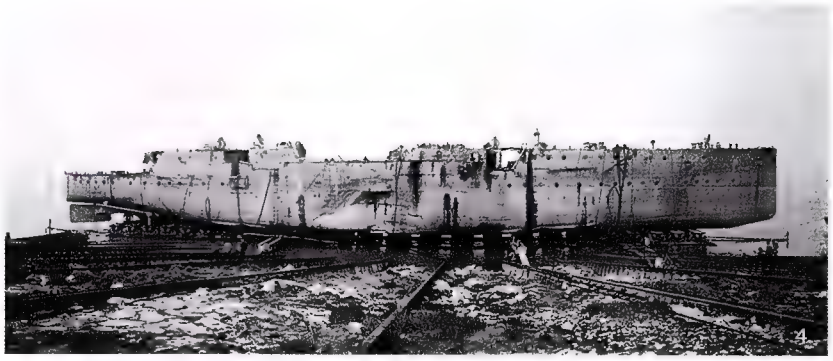
On June 29, Chiang Kai-shek rushed from Shanghai to Guangzhou, and went aboard the *Yong Feng*. He spent the next 42 days with Dr. Sun Yat-sen, and won the president's favour with his many suggestions and his willingness to share his worries in troubled times.

Chiang Kai-shek: the Presidential Escort

In his diary Dr. Sun Yat-sen wrote of Chiang Kai-shek: "He risked his life and shared the woes of the officers and sailors on board." It is said during those days Chiang often washed the decks like an ordinary sailor, and at night, he risked his life going ashore to buy daily necessities for the president. Also on the ship during those unforgettable days were Sun's wife Mme. Soong Ching-ling, Liao Zhongkai's wife He Xiangning, as well as such important politicians and generals as Wu Tingfang and Wang Jingwei.

During the 54 days' stay on the *Yong Feng*, from June 17 to August 9, before he left for Shanghai, Dr. Sun saw action in several battles. During the Sanshan River battle on July 10, he was on the observation deck when the ship was hit by six cannonballs, which injured a dozen sailors and killed five. Captain Feng Zhaoxian repeatedly asked the president to withdraw but was sternly refused. The captain sought help from Chiang Kai-shek, who promised to command the battle on the president's behalf before he could persuade him to leave the deck.

On March 12, 1925, Dr. Sun died of liver cancer in Beijing. On April 13 that year, the government renamed the *Yong Feng* as the *Zhong Shan* in his honour. (Sun Yat-sen is always known as Sun Zhongshan in Chinese, the name he took early in his life.)



1. Generalissimo Sun Yat-sen (a reference photo)
2. The *Zhong Shan* in the founding year of the Republic
3. A year after the mutiny by Chen Jiongming, Dr. Sun Yat-sen and his wife Soong Ching-ling made a return visit to the battleship then known as the *Yong Feng*. (a reference photo)
4. The *Zhong Shan*, made by Japan for China, and destroyed by Japan

Sinking at Wuhan

In June 1938, a few days after the *Zhong Shan* celebrated its 26th birthday, the Japanese army occupied Anqing, a city on the Yangtse River in Anhui Province. The Chinese army prepared to defend Wuhan. After the fall of Nanjing, Wuhan became the centre of the Chinese resistance. The scale of the battle to defend Wuhan was unprecedented in the anti-Japanese war, involving more than 400,000 Japanese infantry, navy and airforce troops and over one million Chinese soldiers. Chiang Kai-shek personally arrived in Wuhan to direct the battle.

The Defense of Wuhan

On July 20, the battle of Wuhan came to a head. Eight Chinese navy boats, including the *Zhong Shan* and *Yong Ji*, were first sent to prevent Japanese airplanes from raiding Yueyang, and then engaged in shipping ammunitions in the middle reaches of the Yangtse and guarding the stretch of the river from Honghu to Jinkou (under Wuhan's jurisdiction). After many of its ships were sunk in Jiangyin, the Chinese Navy was left with only seven or eight ships.

On October 21, the *Yong Ji* and *Jiang Yuan* were sunk by Japanese bombs at Honghu Lake and Yueyang respectively. The *Zhong Shan*'s presence thus became even more conspicuous. On October 23, the *Zhong Shan* was cruising between Honghu and Jinkou. At 9:00 a.m. the next day, it arrived at Jinkou, a town 26 kilometres upstream from Wuhan.

The *Zhong Shan* had just dropped anchor when a Japanese reconnaissance plane arrived, made a few circles above and disappeared. The *Zhong Shan*'s officers realised that a fierce battle was in the offing. At about 11:30 a.m. nine Japanese planes arrived, circled above again for about five minutes and left.

The Solitary Zhong Shan in Action

The fierce battle finally began at 3:00 p.m. Six Japanese planes approached over Jinkou, and then in single file began wave upon wave of bombing. At first the Japanese were flying high and successfully avoided artillery fire from the *Zhong Shan*.

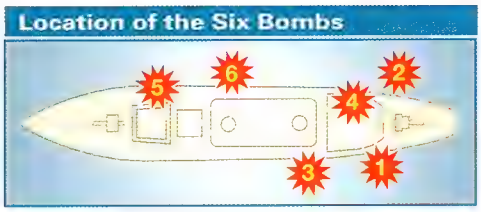
Sinking Boats at Jiangyin

During the anti-Japanese battle, the Chinese military decided to build a dam at Jiangyin and install artillery to stop Japanese troops from attacking Nanjing and threatening Wuhan. Since the river at Jiangyin was narrow and relatively shallow, sunken boats there would become a dam blocking enemy boats. Over 70 enemy battleships and commercial boats were sailing on the Yangtse at that time, some being upstream near Chongqing. Though costly, it was thought worthwhile if so many enemy battleships were stopped.

On August 11, the Chinese authorities issued the order to sink boats at Jiangyin. Unfortunately, due to a tip-off, the 70 Japanese ships upstream broke away and sailed out of Jiangyin. The dam plan was thus modified but still carried through.

The Chinese Navy sank the first group of battleships and over 20 commercial boats, followed by four major battleships. During the fierce battles in August and September at Jiangyin, where the Japanese sent in many battleships and planes, some Chinese battleships were bombed and capsized along with smaller boats. By the end of 1937, the boats sunk, either deliberately by the Chinese Navy or by the Japanese, totalled 36,000 tons, or about 60 percent of the navy's total tonnage. In addition, a few other battleships were sunk by the Chinese Navy at Bohai Bay and a number of others were destroyed by the Japanese in the South China Sea. The Zhong Shan was one of the few remaining battleships in battle.

During the height of the engagement, the anti-aircraft gun at the bow jammed. Then the machine guns, port and starboard, broke down as well. The Japanese, sensing an obvious weakening of the ship's fire, began dive-bombing one after another.



A Bloody Bombing

The first bomb hit port-side and exploded in the water, splitting the hull, causing flooding, and rudder damage. The next bomb caused little damage. The third bomb dropped into the water on the port side again; reverberations tore apart the walls of the forward boiler, and water flooded in. The fourth bomb hit the opposite side, damaging the aft boiler badly. The ship lost its power, and the bow began tilting to port. The fifth bomb struck the bow, piercing the wheelhouse, destroying the chart room, the foredeck and its gun. Eight gunners, three officers and the helmsman died in the blast. The ammunition tank then exploded, starting a major fire. After the sixth bomb exploded the *Zhong Shan* lost control.





The Heroic Ending

The captain Sa Shijun was seriously wounded, so Lü Shufen, the deputy captain, took over damage control and rescue of the wounded. Lü had forced the captain and the seriously wounded to leave on two sampans.

The ship quickly lost control. Lü Shufen, who later lost his eyesight, recalled in 1995 that during the split second the boat tilted to a 40-degree angle, its bow suddenly thrust up and there was a deafening roar as the boat disappeared. It was 4:30 p.m., October 24, 1938.

Captain Sa Shijun was caught by enemy bullets while fleeing on the sampan. The sampan capsized, and all died in the bloodstained Yangtse River. On October 25, 1938 Wuhan fell to the Japanese.

The Facelift

After its resurfacing, the *Zhong Shan* was sent to the Hubei Shipyard in Wuhan for restoration. Instead of giving the wreck an entirely new look, the experts are preserving it as it was. All the "wounds" will remain, though the hull itself will be solidified.

After the facelift the *Zhong Shan* will be put on display at Jinkou, where it met its disaster, as a reminder of the tragedy that took place decades ago.

1. The deck as it looks today (by Liu Yang)
2. Anchor holes in the bow on the original waterlogged wooden deck (by Liu Yang)

The Zhong Shan's Survivors


Cheng Naixiang, one of the few survivors, during a mourning ritual at Jinkou where the *Zhong Shan* sank

Zhang's Tragedy Memory

Mr. Zhang Songling, who lives in Kunming, has retained his soldier's disposition despite his venerated age of 86. "How time flies," he said, sighing with emotion. "It's almost 60 years since the Zhong Shan sank in heroic tragedy. Though most officers and soldiers who survived have passed away, a few are still alive today; as far as I know, three in Taiwan, one in the United States, and Dong Shuren in Shanghai." Zhang's obviously strong memory allowed him to recount the disaster with unusual clarity.

In tears, he talked of the death of the captain and more than 20 fellow soldiers: "When the boat tilted, the water flooding in already reached our knees. After the bombers left, sympathetic local fishermen came to our rescue. Young soldiers voluntarily jumped into the surging Yangtse so older officers could board the fishing boats. I swam for my life before being saved by a fishing boat. Later, with other survivors, I sailed on a battleship to Chongqing."

(Source: Changjiang Daily)



Zhang Qijun (now in the United States), Chen Mingzheng, Kang Jianle and Lin Hongbing (now in Taiwan) were all engineers on probation aboard the Zhong Shan.

Four Survivors in Fuzhou

Qiu Yidian, 82, a survivor only located after the wreck was salvaged, had been an orderly for the captain. As Sa Shijun gave orders to fire at Japanese reconnaissance planes with machineguns on October 24, 1938, he asked Qiu to go ashore to buy daily items. He did not want Qiu, an only son, to perish in the forthcoming fierce battle. Qiu, only 20 then, did not know this, but quickly left. Then, enemy airplanes arrived, the Zhong Shan raised anchor and threw itself into battle. Qiu, penniless, begged his way to Fuzhou to report the captain's death to his family. Qiu had worked at the Fuzhou Fermented Soy Sauce Factory until retirement in 1975.

Chen Baotong, 92, a cook, was running a fever on the battle day. Only when water flooded into the ship did he jump off. Today, Chen is still hearty and hale enough to drive a small tricycle around the city.

Zhang Changjin, 86, a former gunner, is suffering the consequences of two heart attacks, but he seemed to improve when he learned that the wreck of the Zhong Shan had been salvaged.

Cheng Naixiang, 89, was the chief engineer and the last man to extricate himself from the ship's damaged deck.

(Source: Wuhan Evening News)


Surviving veterans of the *Zhong Shan* paying respect to the tomb of the fallen heroes: Cheng Naixiang (in wheelchair), Chen Mingzheng (in white), Qiu Yidian (on his knees) and Chen Baotong (in blue)

Japan Violated International Conventions

What makes the survivors angry is the cruel Japanese invaders' blatant violation of international law, which forbids shooting those who have fallen into the water. The Japanese, however, went so far as to strafe the sampans loaded with wounded Chinese soldiers and the river where survivors were swimming. Thus, the loss of life was unnecessarily greater than would have been expected.

(Source: Wuhan Literary and Historical Reference)

Memories of Pleasure

During a holiday tour, everybody feels relaxed.

There is no urge to go to work; no boss' staring eyes; no overtime nor additional tasks. The only thing one cares is to make oneself happy.

Why not? You've paid for it.

So, the old become younger; the serious turn easy going. But whatever the circumstances, no-one forgets to take photos to record their trip and the many unexpected encounters. In the following photos you can see the travellers' pleasures during their happy trips.



GOOD FRIENDS by Café Yu



MONKEYS' DINNER by Ken Cheung



WAIT FOR ME! by Chan Ka Chung



SUPERWOMAN by Dong Wen



IT IS -7°C! by Mr. Cheng



Gigantic Shoes by Benny

Fantastic Skills by Chen Ming



In My Experience

Taking Photos of an Ancient Plank Way at Night

Photos & article by Huang Yanhong

This photo was taken at the confluence of the Dadu and Minjiang rivers, where a 70-metre-high statue of the Buddha sits facing the Dadu River, and to its right is this ancient plank way on sheer cliffs.

We decided to take photos of the plank way at night for a better effect. So, with permission from the scenic spot's administration, we entered the area one night. One of us fixed the tripod on the opposite cliff and set the camera shutter to B, and the aperture to 5.6. Meanwhile, the other person walked down the plank way for about 10 minutes, lighting the way evenly with two powerful flashlights.

Compared to a photo taken using a camera flash, this one lit with flashlights is obviously more attractive because it better reflects the features of the ancient plank way.





Regal International East Asia Hotel: A Paradise for the Sports-minded

Article by Shan Xiaogang

Ever since Shanghai emerged as a key port in the country, Xuhui has been a fashionable residential district loved by celebrities and movie stars. It is also the area where Shanghai's foreign consulates used to be based, leading to a scattering of Western-style buildings and villas here and there in the region. Such an ideal environment was a natural choice for the location of the Regal International East Asia Hotel.

The hotel, together with Shanghai International Tennis Centre and East Asia Apartments, form a prestigious club offering comprehensive sports, dining and business facilities. The club is remarkable for its first-class and well-equipped sports and fitness equipment. The highlight is the tennis courts complex, designed and built by the American Hilton International Tennis Association according to international standards. There are eight tennis courts outdoors, and two indoors located on the hotel's third floor. The indoor ones are equipped with a reflected lighting system imported from



Germany, the first of its kind in the world. Soft, even and adequate light reflected from the silvery-grey ceiling of the vaulted sports hall ensures tennis lovers are not distracted by sharp lights nor bad weather. Right beside the courts is a lounge perfectly fitted with rattan chairs. The temperature is kept steady at around 18-20°C. Members using the courts are charged 100 yuan per hour during daytime, and 120 yuan from 18:00 to 23:30.



The almost 1,000-square-metre fitness centre in the Regal International East Asia Hotel is equipped with more than 100 kinds of equipment, all imported from Germany. Apart from these facilities, there are also a bowling centre with 12 alleys, a standard indoor swimming pool, a sauna, a billiard room, an indoor golf course, and a beauty salon, to name a few.

Before using the fitness centre, members can have an in-depth fitness check-up at Hengkang Court to work out an individual exercise programme. On the third floor, a children's corner is set up with a baby-sitting service.





Tips for the Traveller

- **Name**: Regal International East Asia Hotel, Shanghai
- **Add**: 516 Hengshan Rd., Shanghai
- **Tel**: (21) 6415 5588 **Fax**: (21) 6445 2755
- **E-mail**: rieah@online.sh.cn
- **Fitness Club**: The club admits members with a limited membership quota. Membership fee is US$30,000; customers of the East Asia Apartments can enjoy membership benefits.
- **Rooms with weekend discount**: "Experience Shanghai": double room, US$85 plus a service charge of 15 percent; "A Date with Regal": double room, US$98 plus a service charge of 15 percent.



1. The indoor tennis courts equipped with an advanced lighting system
2. The outdoor tennis courts of the hotel
3. A resplendently decorated restaurant (by Shan Xiaogang)
4. More than 100 kinds of German-imported equipment are installed in the spacious fitness centre.
5. The luxurious King's Suite
6. Having a break by the indoor swimming pool


Huangguoshu Waterfall in the dry season

A GLIMPSE OF GUIZHOU

Photos & article by Pierre Wong

After passing through Liuzhou of Guangxi, I made my way to Guiyang, the capital of Guizhou Province in the Sorthwest.

I arrived in Guiyang by 10:10 p.m. and checked into Mingzhu (Bright Pearl) Hotel, which is 200 metres to the right of the Guiyang Railway Station. Double rooms cost 120 yuan and the hotel was offering a 20 percent discount at the time.

The Ancient Tower for Favourable Geomancy

The next day, I went to Hebin Park, which was accessible by Bus No. 2 of public transport and only four stops from the railway station. My first impression of Guiyang was that there were a lot of signs in English, even the buses were making recorded announcements in English. From Hebin Park I took a motorcycle ride to Jiaxiu Tower for five yuan.

Jiaxiu Tower was first built in 1597, during the reign of Emperor Wanli of the late Ming Dynasty. It was built on a huge rock standing in the middle of the Nanming River, in the belief that it could bring in favourable geomancy. The name Jiaxiu means achieving excellent results in the imperial examinations. The tower was destroyed and rebuilt repeatedly, and the present structure was built in 1689 during the Qing Dynasty. Inside the tower is an exhibition about the famous scholars who were natives of Guizhou. The nearby Cuiwei Garden also dates back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

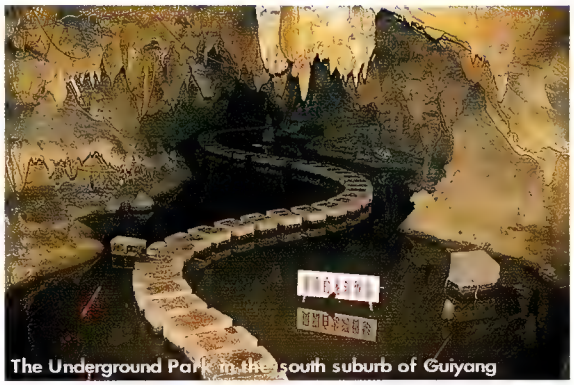

Entrance to the Wind and Rain Bridge at Red Maple Lake Holiday Resort

The next morning, I got up at 6 a.m. for the Huangguoshu (Yellow Fruit Tree) Waterfall tour. The fall is located in the Zhenning Bouyei Autonomous County, approximately 120 kilometres southwest of Guiyang. En route, we visited a village inhabited by the Miao people where we were treated to a characteristic song and dance performance. The Miao welcome visitors by setting off firecrackers and greeting them with a local brew drunk out of hollowed ox horn. Visitors who accept the horn when it is handed to them are obliged to empty the horn; otherwise they need only take a small sip.

The Magnificent Waterfall and Charming Lake Resort

The Huangguoshu Waterfall, 74 metres high and 81 metres wide, provided a marvellous view. Normally, I was told, visitors hear the thunderous roar of the fall long before they catch sight of it. Unfortunately, I arrived during the dry season of February, so the sight and sounds were not that spectacular. Behind the waterfall is a cavern, called Shuiliandong (Water Curtain Cave), which allows visitors to walk from one side of the fall to the other. An organised tour like this costs 155 yuan, including all entrance tickets and a couple of commemorative golden coins.

Returning to the hotel, I asked the receptionist about the Wind and Rain Bridges and was told that I should visit the Dong communities in Hongfeng (Red Maple) Lake Holiday Resort. So, the next morning I made my way to Hebin Park where


The Underground Park in the south suburb of Guiyang

there is a shuttle service that runs to Hongfeng Lake.

Red Maple Lake Holiday Resort showcases the lifestyles, architecture and customs of the Buoyei, Miao and Dong minorities. According to the staff, June is the busiest, so I arrived in the slow season. Accommodation ranges from 180 yuan for a four-person room to 1,880 yuan for the Deluxe Garden Suite. Red Maple Lake is a man-made lake covering an area of 57 square kilometres. Visitors can cruise on the vast water surface, visiting dozens of small isles, or go to explore the Taoyuan (Peach Flower) Cave, a limestone cave with fantastic stalactites. There are performances scheduled throughout the day. Most visitors stay for the evening show and the demonstration of "Climbing the Knife Mountain".

One minor inconvenience I had to put up with was the different touts offering their services. One ferry operator was especially persistent, and I ended up paying 20 yuan for a return trip to the Dong village. On the way back to Guiyang I met a family who paid 15 yuan per person, and were taken to two villages. So when you travel alone, it is often advisable to join the crowd.

Fantastic Underground Park

My last day in Guiyang was spent touring the underground cave in Nanjiao (South Suburb) Park. By the Xiaoche River south of Guiyang, stands a wild hill. A pavilion built at the foot of the hill serves as the entrance to the underground limestone cave. I had to wait half an hour at the cave entrance for a group of 10 to form. Apparently, 50 yuan is the minimum needed to defray the costs of lighting and tour guide. Inside the cave, there is a fantastic world of stalactites and stalagmites. Some look like bamboo shoots, fruits, flowers, pearls and curtains, others are in various vivid images of animals or human figures. That is why this cave is also called Underground Park. Since the guided tour is conducted in Putonghua, or standard Chinese, those who are linguistically challenged might have to rely on their own intuition and imagination while admiring them.

After lunch I took bus No. 73 and asked the driver to drop me off where I could board another bus to Qianling Park. The park lies 1.5 kilometres north of the city proper of Guiyang and is


Qianling Park, where General Zhang Xueliang was imprisoned

serviced by public transport. It was a week after Spring Festival and the park was still attracting a large number of visitors. On the way up to Hongfu Temple on the top of the Qianling Mountain, I passed by a garden that had imprisoned Zhang Xueliang, one of the two generals who initiated the Xi'an Incident in December 1936. Digging deep into the recesses of my memory from junior high, I remembered that Zhang and Yang Hucheng had kidnapped Chiang Kai-shek in Xi'an in an attempt to persuade him to stop the civil war and join forces with the Communist Party to drive out the common enemy, the Japanese. Chiang Kai-shek, however, did not keep his word. He had General Yang and his family executed and put General Zhang Xueliang under house arrest in Taiwan. Zhang was released only a few years ago when he entered his 90s.

Travelling before and after Spring Festival is a major headache. Guiyang Railway Station was jam packed every day since my arrival. I could not picture myself queuing hours on end for a ticket to Kunming, so I caught a plane instead. The plane ride costs 350 yuan and took less than an hour, so travellers pressed for time might consider this option.


Kids skinny dipping behind Qianling Park

NEXT ISSUE

Highlights of Issue No. 231



• Guiyang: China's Second Spring City

The capital of Guizhou Province, Guiyang, similar to Kunming in Yunnan, enjoys a spring climate all year round. Embraced by mountains and waters, Guiyang teems with natural scenery including the South River Valley, Red Maple Lake and Flower Stream scattered around the city centre and its outskirts. The city is also remarkable for its ancient architecture such as the Jiaxiu Tower and Wenchang Pavilion. Find out how these structures differ from those found elsewhere.

• The Three Tastes of Guiyang Snacks

Guiyang snacks are renowned for their great varieties as well as their three tastes: sour, peppery and tingling. The three mix to produce a distinguished flavour. Taking a look at the names of the snacks is enough to whet you appetite: Love Fruit, Silk Doll...

• Red Army City, Chishui River and the Sea of Bamboo

Zunyi is the whereabouts of the Red Army graveyard which is notable for its marvellous sculptures. The town of Maotai is famous for its production of Maotai liquor. How many tons are produced each day? The Chishui River drops a magnificent waterfall comparable with the renowned Huangguoshu. The cascade is surrounded by a sea of bamboo 10,000 hectares large. Living fossils of some rare plants are also found here.

• Sister Rice Festival and Other Miao Customs

During the Sister Rice Festival falling on the 15th of the 3rd lunar month, it is customary for Miao girls living in the Southeast Guizhou Province to prepare the Five-colour Rice. Do they make the rice for their lovers or for their parents? The festival is also an occasion for the Miao girls to show off their wealth: they wear silver hats, huge silver necklaces and silver bracelets. Their metal adornments weigh more than five kilograms!

• Ancient Fortresses on the Tibetan Plateau

Standing on the lonely Tibetan Plateau are the ruins of a group of ancient fortresses. They have been deserted by their owners long ago, solitarily resisting erosion in the wilderness. When were these fortresses built? When were they destroyed? And who had they belonged to?...

• The Antique Paper-making Technique

It is hard to imagine that the 2,000-year-old technique of paper-making invented by Cai Lun is still used by people nowadays. In Sihui in Guangdong Province, there are workshops in villages which use this ancient technique to produce 10,000 sheets of paper a day. Wandering in these villages, you will feel like you have entered a time warp.

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Hotels in Wuhan

Name	Star	Address	Postcode	Tel	Fax
Wuhan Asia Hotel	****	616 Jiefang Ave., Hankou	430030	(27) 83807777	(27) 83808080
Yangtse Hotel	***	1131 Jiefang Ave., Hankou	430030	(27) 83632828	(27) 83644110
Wuhan Lantian Hotel	***	1049 Jiefang Ave., Hankou	430030	(27) 83646555	(27) 83645161
Lijiang Hotel	***	1 Tiyuguan Rd., Wuchang	430071	(27) 87813668	(27) 87813638
General Hotel	***	98 Bayi Rd., Wuchang	430071	(27) 87871666	(27) 87873000
Xuangong Hotel	***	57 Jianghan Rd. One	430021	(27) 82810365	(27) 82816942
Ramada Hotel	***	9 Taibei Rd. One, Hankou	430015	(27) 85787968	(27) 85803581
Yinfeng Hotel	**	400 Zhongshan Ave.	430031	(27) 85892700	(27) 85893011
Outstanding Hotel	**	1 Yejin Ave., Qingshan District	430080	(27) 86863052	(27) 86864677
People's Hotel	**	69 Jianghan Rd., Hankou	430014	(27) 82810002	(27) 82813075
Zhongnan Hotel	**	288 Wuge Rd., Wuchang	430070	(27) 87816881	(27) 87833100
Golden Ears Hotel	**	44 Zhonghua Rd., Wuchang	430060	(27) 88864163	(27) 88864162

Hotels in Chongqing

Name	Star	Address	Postcode	Tel	Fax
Harbour Plaza	*****	Wuyi Rd.	400010	(23) 63700888	(23) 63700778
Holiday Inn Yangtse	****	15 Nanping Rd. N.	400060	(23) 62803380	(23) 62800884
Chongqing Guesthouse	****	235 Minsheng Rd.	400010	(23) 63845888	(23) 63830643
Chungking Hotel	***	41-43 Xinhua Rd.	400011	(23) 63849301	(23) 63843085
Milky Way Hotel	***	49 Datong Rd.	400010	(23) 63808585	(23) 63812080
Shaping Grand Hotel	***	84 New Xiaolongkan St.	400030	(23) 65313195	(23) 65313293
Xinan Hotel	***	5 Nanping Rd. N.	400060	(23) 62800997	(23) 62800911
Wudu Hotel	***	24 Zengjiayan	400015	(23) 63850762	(23) 63851788
Baixiang Hotel	**	18 Baixiang St.		(23) 63704417	(23) 63811504
Yudu Hotel	**	168 Bayi Rd.		(23) 63835215	(23) 66818168
Waimao Hotel	**	65 Jianxin Rd. N.	400020	(23) 67858100	(23) 67858228
Changan Hotel	**	Tea Garden, Jiangbei District	400023	(23) 67857044	(23) 67857071
Xiya Hotel		33 Yuzhou Rd., Shiqiaopu	400039	(23) 68600999	(23) 68600042

Flights to and from **Wuhan**

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
Beijing — Wuhan	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:25	10:15	CA1333
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:50	12:50	CZ3118
	5	13:45	16:05	WU618
	3	14:20	16:05	WU618
	1	14:20	16:15	WU618
	5	14:40	16:40	SZ4738
	2	14:40	16:40	SZ4738
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	14:50	16:45	CZ3138
	7	15:10	16:50	WU618
	2 5	15:20	17:15	CZ3136
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	16:30	18:25	WU122
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:25	20:25	CZ3140
Wuhan — Beijing	7	07:30	09:05	WU617
	5	07:30	09:05	WU617
	1	08:05	09:50	WU617
	3	08:15	09:50	WU617
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:20	10:10	CZ3117
	5	12:05	13:50	SZ4737
	2	12:10	13:50	SZ4737
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12:20	14:05	CZ3137
	1 4	13:25	15:05	CZ3135
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	14:00	15:40	WU121
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:35	17:30	CA1334
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	16:00	17:45	CZ3139
Guilin — Wuhan	1 5	09:10	10:10	CZ333
	2 3 4 6 7	11:55	15:00	WU334
	4 7	18:35	19:35	WU374
Wuhan — Guilin	2 3 4 6 7	07:45	11:00	WU333
	4 7	12:45	13:50	WU373
	1 5	18:10	19:20	CZ334
Hangzhou — Wuhan	2 4 6	13:55	15:15	CZ3542
	1 3 5 6	18:35	19:45	WU572
	7	18:40	19:45	WU572
Wuhan — Hangzhou	2 4 6	12:05	13:15	CZ3541
	1 3 5 6	16:30	17:30	WU571
	7	17:00	18:00	WU571
Hong Kong — Wuhan	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	11:50	13:30	CZ3076
Wuhan — Hong Kong	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	09:00	10:50	CZ3075
Lanzhou — Wuhan	1 5	08:10	10:20	WH2537
	2 6	08:40	10:50	WH2517
	5	11:40	14:10	WU232
	3	12:50	14:40	H4442
	4 7	14:15	16:00	CZ3254
Wuhan — Lanzhou	5	08:00	11:00	WU231
	3	10:10	12:00	H4441
	4 7	11:20	13:20	CZ3253
	1 5	15:25	17:45	WH2538
	2 6	15:45	18:05	WH2518
Shenyang — Wuhan	2 6	09:50	12:40	CJ6311
	1	12:20	15:55	CZ3646
	4	12:20	15:55	WU558
	3 7	16:00	18:45	SZ4662
Wuhan — Shenyang	4	08:00	11:30	WU557
	1	08:20	11:30	CZ3645
	3 7	13:10	15:20	SZ4661
	2 6	18:40	21:00	CJ6312

** For reference only.*

Flights to and from **Chongqing**

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
Dalian — Chongqing	2 4	08:25	12:10	CJ6429
	5 7	09:20	12:20	CJ6425
	1	12:00	15:40	CJ6427
	2 6	15:30	18:10	3Q4614
Chongqing — Dalian	2 6	12:10	14:50	3Q4613
	2 4	13:00	16:50	CJ6430
	1	16:20	20:10	CJ6428
	5 7	17:10	19:40	CJ6426
Guilin — Chongqing	1 3 4 6	09:50	10:50	MF8403
	1 4	18:00	19:00	CZ8743
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	20:25	21:30	SZ4342
	3 6 7	20:45	21:50	SZ426
Chongqing — Guilin	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	07:15	08:15	SZ4319
	1 3 4 6	11:30	12:30	MF8404
	3 6 7	14:55	15:50	SZ425
	1 4	19:40	20:20	CZ8744
Harbin — Chongqing	2	08:30	12:10	CJ6943
	5	12:40	17:00	SZ4644
	7	16:30	21:10	SZ4644
Chongqing — Harbin	5	07:20	11:50	SZ4643
	7	11:30	15:50	SZ4643
	2	16:40	20:10	CJ6944
Shanghai — Chongqing	7	07:50	10:00	FM547
	1 2 3 4 5 6	08:30	10:45	FM547
	1 3 5 7	10:55	13:25	3U572
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12:00	14:10	SZ4542
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	16:45	19:00	SZ4544
Chongqing — Shanghai	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:10	11:15	SZ4541
	7	10:40	12:55	FM548
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	13:50	16:00	SZ4543
	1 3 5 7	14:05	16:10	3U571
	1 2 3 4 5 6	16:30	18:35	FM548
Tianjin — Chongqing	1 3	08:40	12:10	X2235
	3 6	16:25	18:50	CA1423
Chongqing — Tianjin	1 3	12:50	16:50	X2236
	3 6	19:30	21:50	CA1424
Urümqi — Chongqing	1 4	08:15	11:45	XO9521
	3 6 7	12:50	17:20	SZ4942
	2 5	16:00	19:20	WH2914
	3 6	16:20	20:20	CZ8774
Chongqing — Urümqi	3 6 7	07:30	12:10	SZ4941
	2 5	11:30	15:10	WH2913
	3 6	11:40	15:40	CZ8773
	1 4	18:50	22:50	XO9522
Zhengzhou — Chongqing	4 7	08:45	10:10	CZ3473
	2 4	10:45	12:10	CJ6429
	2 5	14:00	15:40	Z2335
	1	14:15	15:40	CJ6427
	5	15:30	17:00	SZ4644
	7	19:45	21:10	SZ4644
	3	20:15	21:40	SZ4720
Chongqing — Zhengzhou	5	07:20	08:50	SZ4643
	4 7	10:50	12:25	CZ3474
	7	11:30	13:00	SZ4643
	2 4	13:00	14:30	CJ6430
	1	16:20	17:55	CJ6428
	3	18:00	19:35	SZ4719
	2 5	20:20	21:50	Z2336

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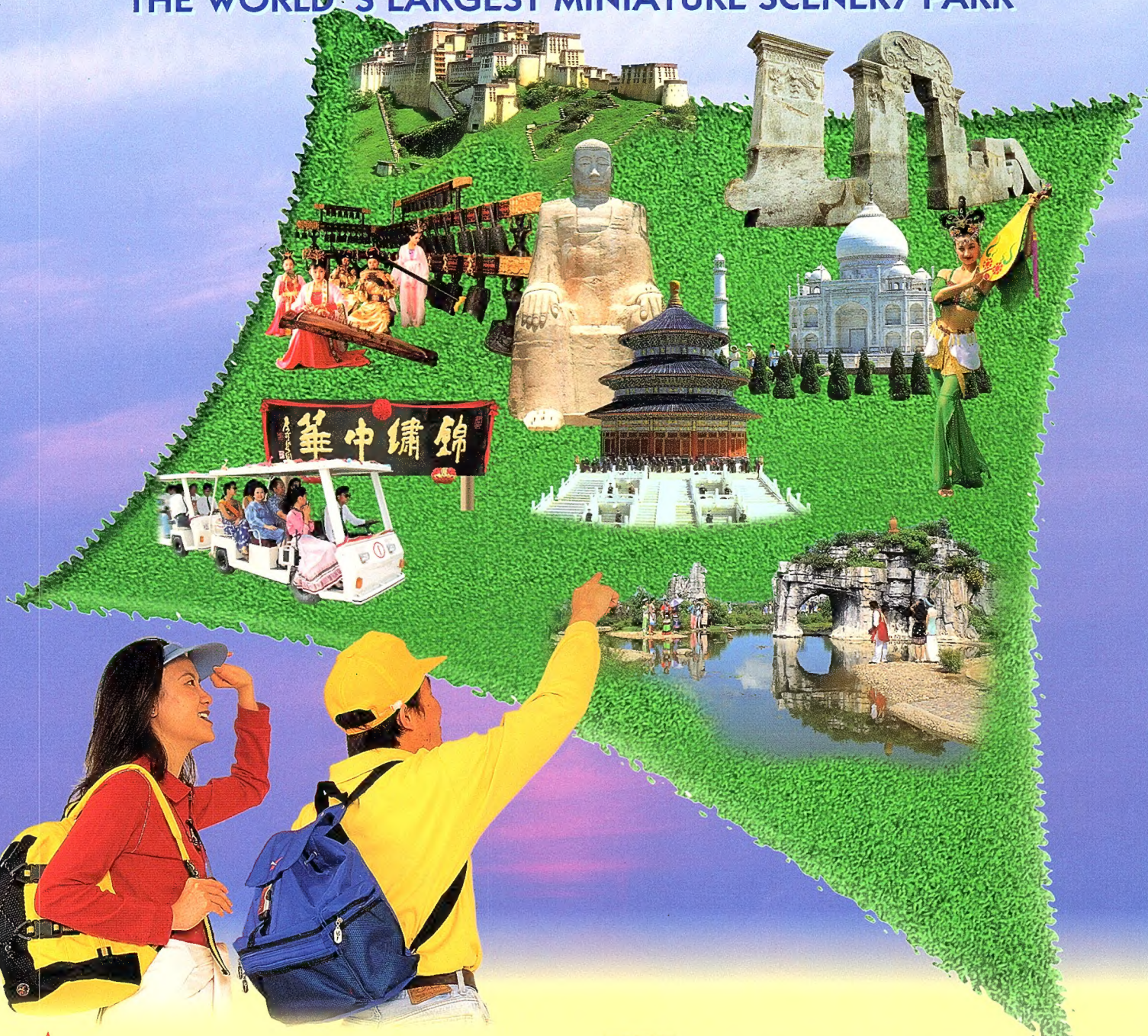
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